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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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BECQ staff arrested for burglary at runner's house. PAGE 3
Mixed signals from US Labor on CW extension. PAGE 8

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INSIDE

WORLD

An Italian court says Amanda Knox delivered the fatal blow in her roommate's murder. ➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

It was a brutal Tony Award nominations for some A-list stars on Broadway. ➤ PAGE 20

IN US CENSUS BUREAU'S 2012 ECONOMIC REPORT

NMI economy generates $1.3B sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the loss of the garment industry, the CNMI economy—now mainly fueled by tourism—was still able to generate $1.3 billion in sales and employed 14,215 people in 2012, based on the U.S. Census Bureau's latest CNMI economic census report released yesterday.

See ECONOMY on Page 4

Fitial makes initial appearance in court

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial, left, talks to reporters while his wife Josie, right, looks on, after his initial Superior Court appearance yesterday afternoon in connection with criminal charges for allegedly shielding a former attorney general from being served with penal summons.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» OPA to file formal charges today; arraignment on Friday

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial made his initial appearance in Superior Court yesterday afternoon to answer criminal charges related to shielding former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons.

With the aid of his wife Josie and a cane, the 68-year-old

See FITIAL on Page 4

Utility crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hoists up a power pole that fell down after a white Mitsubishi Mirage being driven by Sherwin Camacho slammed into it yesterday afternoon along Chalan Pale Arnold. Inset shows the damaged car as it was being towed to the Motion Auto Repair Shop near Triple J Motors on Beach Road.
JAYSON CAMACHO

Man critical after Middle Rd. crash

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Telephone pole broken, car totaled

A man is now in critical condition after the car he was driving crashed into a wooden utility pole in Gualo Rai yesterday afternoon, toppling the pole and causing a traffic gridlock along Middle Road. The accident also resulted in a widespread power outage on Saipan.

See MAN on Page 4

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Local

Tourism advocates and officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority and its board of directors, HANMI, and Tasi Tours join Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider at the Office of the Governor yesterday morning.

Inos declares May as Tourism Month

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider jointly signed the 2014 CNMI Tourism Month proclamation at the Office of the Governor yesterday morning.

The proclamation designates May as Tourism Month and encourages the community to become aware of the "unique recreational, cultural, and lifestyle appeal of the CNMI and how tourism plays a great role in the CNMI in improving lives and the visitors' lives as well."

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said that MVA's motto—"Tourism is Everybody's Business"—remains a vital reminder for all residents and stakeholders alike of tourism's role in the community.

"In fiscal year 2013, the tourism industry contributed $1.07 billion in direct and indirect impact to the CNMI economy. [A total of] 433,95 people visited the CNMI, an increase of more than 11 percent from the past year," Pierce said.

MVA board vice chair James Nelson said that tourism benefits and substantially enhances the personal growth, education, and quality of life of the islands' residents.

"Tourism promotes intercultural understanding, friendship, and appreciation of the people, geography, and history of the CNMI. Tourism raises awareness of the historical significance and importance of the events that have taken place in the CNMI," Nelson said.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio pointed out that tourism "is the sole economic driver of the CNMI and must be nurtured for the benefit of the people."

"MVA and the board have been working on various activities for this month's awareness on tourism," he added.

The lineup of activities scheduled for Tourism Month includes the Taste of the Marianas, one of the most popular annual activities on Saipan.

Other activities for May is "Spirit Island Wear Fridays" which calls on the local community to wear island attire or local traditional wear and post their photos on Facebook.

Tenorio said that one lucky winner per week will be chosen and winners will receive Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month T-shirt.

Other activities are outreach presentation during Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas, on-the-street interviews of random people that will be featured on *Saipan Tribune* every Tuesday, and a radio tourism trivia.

The proclamation signing was witnessed by MVA staff, MVA's board of directors, the Consulate of Japan on Saipan, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands members, and Tasi Tours. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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Share the road with motorcycles

BECQ staff, another man arrested for burglary at runner's house

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A staff of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and another man were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly burglarizing a house in Chalan Kiya that was occupied by his co-workers and their guest.

BECQ environmental specialist Elmer John Duenas Sablan, 43, was arrested for burglary, theft, and conspiracy, while Larry M. Sugiyama, 24, was apprehended for receiving stolen property and conspiracy. Bail was set at $100,000 cash each. Preliminary hearing will be on May 6 at 1:30pm.

The house the two allegedly burglarized is being rented by Saipan runner Steven Johnson and his girlfriend, Kaitlin Mattos. At that time, the couple had a guest triathlete from the Philippines.

Police said that Sablan and Sugiyama confessed that they were involved in the burglary and that they sold the stolen items to different people.

According to a concerned citizen who tipped off the police, Sablan and Sugiyama are regular customers of a poker arcade and that they sometimes would trade off stolen items in exchange for methamphetamine or "ice."

Police detective Francisco O. Iginoef stated in his report that a police officer was sent to a house in Chalan Kiya on April 17, 2014, at 8:55am, in response to a report of a burglary and theft incident.

According to Johnson's guest, she went jogging before 9am but did not lock the front door. When she returned before 9:40am, she noticed that some items, including her iPhone, were missing. The guest then used the phone of a neighbor to call the occupants of the house at work.

The guest disclosed that she had downloaded the Find Me Application on her iPhone and that it showed her iPhone's location was in Chalan Kanoa. The phone's registered name was also changed to Meng and Feng.

An aerial picture of Chalan Kanoa and a white dot indicating the last location of the iPhone showed that it was at a building behind Sister Remedios School.

That same day, detectives checked the location of the iPhone, which appears to be a workers' barracks. A man they questioned denied having the iPhone.

On the same day, a concerned citizen told a detective that Sablan and Sugiyama burglarized a "jogger's" home in Chalan Kiya last April 17.

On April 22, Sugiyama confessed to police of his role in the burglary in Chalan Kiya.

Sugiyama told police that it was Sablan's idea to burglarize the house in Chalan Kiya because he lost his paycheck after playing poker at Lucky 7 Poker in Susupe.

Sugiyama said Sablan asked him to park the car near a two-story house in Chalan Kiya and instructed him to return after 25 to 30 minutes.

Sugiyama said he parked at Saipan Health Clinic, waited 30 minutes, then went back and picked up Sablan, who was hiding among tall grasses. Sablan was reportedly carrying a backpack and a brown guitar.

They then drove to a house in Chalan Kanoa and sold the iPad for $60. Later, they met a Caucasian man, who purchased a tablet and the CD driver for $150.

Sugiyama said on that same day, he pawned the notebook for $50 at a pawnshop. Sablan sold the Rogue acoustic guitar for $20 to a person in Susupe.

Sugiyama stated that on April 18 at 3am, he sold a necklace and wristwatch for $30 to the man who earlier bought the iPad.

Sugiyama said that on Easter Sunday, April 20, he remembered that the iPhone was still in the backpack so he sold it for $40 to a buyer in Chalan Kanoa.

On April 24, police said Sablan voluntarily went to the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation Office where he admitted the crimes.

Sablan told police that after he got out of work on April 16 he played poker near XO Market until 3am the following day. He said he finished his paycheck and went to Winchell's in Susupe, where he met Sugiyama outside Lucky 7 Poker.

Sablan told Sugiyama that he lost his paycheck playing poker so he needs to make money because he can't go home to his family empty-handed.

Sablan said he asked Sugiyama to drop him off at the house of his co-workers Johnson and Mattos in Chalan Kiya, where he would steal some items.

Sablan told detectives that he would sometimes drop off his co-workers so he knew that the front door of the house is usually unlocked.

Tinian fiesta kicks off tomorrow

The 2014 San Jose Fiesta will kick off tomorrow with a two-day celebration of sports, activities, contests, and entertainment at Kammer Beach.

Booths were open since yesterday and a soft opening will happen tonight from 6pm to 8pm.

The fiesta will then officially start tomorrow, May 2, from 6am to 5pm and will continue on Saturday, May 3, from 6am to 7pm but booths will be open at 10am. It will be followed by a Mass on Sunday morning and a sports competition at 2pm followed by live entertainment.

Today's soft opening will feature a musical talent competition from 6pm to 7pm and then a beer-drinking contest from 7pm to 8pm.

The festival kicks off tomorrow with the Bottom Fishing Derby. Booths will open at 10am.

Entertainment and activities tomorrow include a band led by J.J. Concepcion, a talent music competition for children, performances by the Taotao Taga Dance Academy, Tinian Elementary Colts, YMB Dancers, Nepalese Dance Troupe, XOT Dancers, Bangladesh Hip Hop Dancers, Southern Warriors, Retrojazz band, a Zumba Dance, and Marvin Guerrero's band.

The fiesta continues on Saturday starting at 6am with the Tour de Tinian, a bike race. Vida Borja, of Marianas Visitors Authority on Tinian, said the race will start at 6am and end at 1pm.

"It starts from Kammer Beach then ends again at Kammer Beach," Borja said.

There will also be a sports competition for children from 1pm to 5pm and a music talent competition for children from 5pm to 7pm.

"The Mayor of Tinian and the fiesta committee tried their best to organize this year's San Jose Fiesta with exciting activities with big prizes and we welcome everyone to participate or simply have fun," Borja said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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Guam police facing internal affairs backlog

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Internal affairs cases are pending against 70 Guam officers accused of breaking local laws over the past three years, but the police chief won't be able to fire, suspend or demote them when the cases are closed, a newspaper reported Friday.

Guam law forbids government agencies from taking any adverse action against an employee more than 60 days after management "knew or should have known" about the alleged infractions, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The 60-day clock starts the day a complaint is filed or a person with a complaint notifies a high-ranking officer.

"If they pass the 60 days, it ain't gonna come to me for adverse action," Chief of Police Fred Bordallo said.

The police colonel may issue letters of warning or reprimands if allegations are corroborated, he said. The pending cases involve accusations of theft, terrorizing and harassment.

Bordallo said the department's small internal affairs division isn't always able to complete investigations by the deadline, creating a backlog.

MAN

From Page 1

The crash happened across Bali Fashion and EZ Mart along Chalan Pale Arnold in Gualo Rai and caused the car to flip to its side.

According to witnesses, the vehicle was speeding north when it collided with the pole, causing it to fall across Middle Road.

The crash caused a power outage starting at 2pm and repairs were still ongoing as of press time yesterday. According to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Division, they don't know how long it will take to repair the damage caused by the crash. Affected areas of the power outage ranged from Garapan all the way to Chalan Lau Lau's main road.

A Department of Public Safety statement identified the car's driver as Sherwin A. Camacho, 35.

The DPS statement said the vehicle was traveling northbound in the outer lane when it approached other vehicles near Pizza Hut and merged into the inner lane to overtake slower traffic. It then went back to the outer lane and crashed straight into the utility pole.

The DPS statement said that brake lights were not seen prior to the crash.

According to traffic crash investigator Norris Kwon, the crash was due to speed and reckless driving.

DPS stated that the driver was not wearing his safety belt and no airbags deployed in the vehicle.

With the fallen pole straddling Middle Road, heavy traffic immediately built up. CUC crew soon arrived at the scene to repair the damage.

One eyewitness told *Saipan Tribune* that he went to check the person in the car if he was okay. According to him, Camacho could not talk as he was bleeding profusely and blood was gushing from his nose, mouth, and head.

Another witness said he was exiting near Eucon International School and was passing by the area when he saw the car hit the pole.

"The pole fell and it looked like it was hanging near the highway," the man said.

Another witness said the accident happened around 2pm and said that the impact was great "because the pole got knocked down but the car went a little more forward, pushing the pole along with it."

"The car didn't even stop after he hit the pole; it went right through it," the witness said.

Saipan Tribune learned that an ambulance came and took the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center. The car was towed to the Motion Auto Repair Shop near Triple J Motors on Beach Road.

DPS stated that the Camacho is in critical condition.

The car itself was totaled from front to back. The front of the car—a 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage DE four-door white sedan with plate number ACC 500—showed the impact and the glass at the back was shattered. Inside the car, the steering wheel was bent; the bottom area for the gas pedal and brake was popped up toward the driver's chair.

The front window was also shattered and blood was splattered everywhere, including in the car's ceiling behind the driver's seat. Blood was also found on the mats that lay on the backseat.

The car was found lying on the driver's side, along with the broken telephone pole stuck to the front of the hood, upon the arrival of police officers.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Fitial walked slowly to the defense table where his counsel, Stephen Nutting, was when Associate Judge David A. Wiseman called the case at 1:47pm.

Fitial, who was wearing a striped white shirt, a pair of black pants, and black leather shoes, was a few minutes early for the scheduled 1:30pm hearing.

Before the hearing, many relatives, friends, and supporters approached and either shook hands or hugged Fitial, who sat beside Barbara Sablan on the left edge of a bench on the third row from the defense's table. The courtroom was jam-packed.

Wiseman was on time for the 1:30pm hearing, but he had to entertain about five criminal cases before finally calling in Fitial's case.

Nutting told the court, among other things, about Fitial's $50,000 property bond as well as the submission of a $50,000 appearance bond.

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback asked that one of the conditions for the bail is for Fitial to sign a waiver that he will not challenge his extradition if he will not come back to Saipan. Nutting said they have no objection to that.

Nutting disclosed that Fitial will be flying to the Philippines on Wednesday next week for a scheduled medical therapy.

Hasselback said he will file an information today, Thursday, so they can proceed with the arraignment on Friday while Fitial is still on the island.

Wiseman then ordered Fitial to return to court for his arraignment tomorrow, Friday, at 9:30am. He said Fitial shall remain released upon the posting of a $50,000 property bond and appearance bond. He also directed Fitial to return to court whenever he is required to do so.

The judge said that Fitial is restricted from leaving Saipan without the court's permission. He said that Fitial's notice to travel on May 5, 2014, to the Philippines for continued medical treatment has been documented and accepted.

Wiseman required Fitial to provide the court a copy of his itinerary and at least three contacts of persons who have knowledge of his whereabouts in the Philippines and who can contact him, if necessary.

The judge reiterated some conditions that he imposed in his March 17, 2014, order in the event that Fitial is not able to return to court due to his ongoing medical treatment.

The conditions require the former governor to submit a notice by his attorney detailing the reasons for his inability to appear. Any medical reason must have a doctor's note signed in the presence of a notary public and any such notarization must be authenticated by the U.S. Embassy.

In an interview with reporters after the hearing, Fitial declined to discuss anything related to his case but was forthright about his health issues. He said he's still under intensive rehabilitation, which is why he's going back to the Philippines on Wednesday. He related that his weight dropped from 249 lbs to less than 180 lbs.

When asked about his husky voice, Fitial said he just had the flu and had been coughing.

"I feel very great, except for my voice," he said.

As to the question whether he will be active in the Republican Party, Fitial said he does not want to talk about politics as he needs to be very active in his rehabilitation. He affirmed that he is not running for any office in the 2014 elections and would instead focus on improving his health and family.

On the support that he received from people who attended the hearing, Fitial said it's "very touching."

The former governor said that after his treatment in the Philippines, he will proceed to the U.S. mainland because of his youngest son's graduation from San Diego State on May 16, 2014.

In his message to the people of the CNMI, Fitial said he just wants the community to be patient because he is focusing on his health. He said his health was one of the two reasons why he resigned as governor.

"But the most important reason was abusing my [body]. So it's about time that I took care of myself. My neurologist told me that what I have now is going to worsen; it's not going to [ease back]," he said.

Fitial returned to Saipan from the Philippines on Saturday, four days before his court appearance yesterday. He resigned as governor on Feb. 20, 2013.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said yesterday this affirms the CNMI's "overall sign of growth and resiliency" amid uncertainties facing the islands' businesses and investors with respect to minimum wage, immigration federalization, foreign labor availability, foreign investor status, and utility and transportation costs.

The $1.3 billion sales in 2012 were generated by 1,339 business establishments, which had $208.4 million in annual payroll.

Lee Wentela, chief of the U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Census Branch, personally presented the results of the 2012 CNMI economic census to the governor yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill.

"One thing that's notable. We had a 90 percent response rate from the businesses here, and that exceeds the national average by about 10 percent. That's always a good indicator of the quality of the report," Wentela later told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Department of Commerce.

Wentela pointed out that the 2012 statistics are not comparable to those gathered in the 2007 economic census because the latest census covered more aspects of the CNMI economy, including utilities and transportation.

If one were to exclude the six government-run establishments related to utilities and transportation that were included in the census for the first time, the CNMI's 2012 business sales would only be $1.2 billion.

This is a 7.3-percent decrease from the 2007 sales of $1.3 billion, generated by 1,191 businesses.

Moreover, the 2007 data still had garment manufacturing sales figures whereas the 2012 data didn't have any, and that reflected the largest decreases in sales, payroll, and employment in both dollar amounts and percentages. The last of the remaining garment factories on Saipan closed in early 2009.

The economic census, done every five years, provides the most authoritative and comprehensive source of information about the entire U.S. economy, including the territories such as the CNMI.

"Just as this report is used by the GDP [gross domestic product] folks when they work on our 2013 numbers, we too will cross-reference our local data and calibrate our findings from other agencies to plan ahead and maintain the growth. This clearly supports our efforts in making more hotel rooms and more visitors," the governor said, when sought for comment.

CNMI tourism arrivals are expected to further grow, and new hotels are lined up to be built. This includes a 2,000-room facility that will be part of a minimum $2 billion casino resort development on Saipan. Another new hotel will be built in Marpi, and another one will be built in San Antonio. The former The Palms Resort in San Roque will also reopen under the global hotel brand Sheraton.

Specific sectors

Excluding the six government-run establishments related to utilities and transportation that were included for the first time, the 2012 economic census statistics show 1,333 business establishments in the CNMI, up from 1,191 in 2007.

Again, excluding the six newly added establishments, there were 13,678 paid employees in 2012, a decrease of 39.5 percent from the 22,622 employees in 2007.

The $193.2 million payroll also marked a 21.5-percent decline from the $246.1 million payroll for 2007.

As for the other findings, the retail trade sector accounted for the most sales in 2012 with $314.1 million. This was an increase of 15.6 percent from the $271.8 million in sales for 2007.

Retail trade employed 2,463 people, a decrease of 11.1 percent from the 2,770 employed in the sector in 2007, while payrolls increased 7.3 percent to $30.7 million—from $28.6 million five years earlier.

As expected, the largest decreases in sales, payroll, and employment—both in dollar amounts and percentages—were in the manufacturing sector.

These decreases included a drop of 89 percent in sales to $20.9 million in 2012 (from $189.7 million in 2007), a decline of 91.7 percent in employment to 592 in 2012 (from 7,094 in 2007), and a payroll decline of 88.2 percent to $6.7 million (from $56.6 million in 2007).

Large employment declines were also seen in the accommodation and food services sector (3,195 in 2012, down from 4,772 in 2007) and in the transportation and warehousing sector (a drop to 641 paid employees from 1,105 five years earlier).

The largest employment increases were in the health care and social assistance sector, which had 725 paid employees in 2012 compared with 267 in 2007 and the construction industry with 821 paid employees in 2012, up from 528 in 2007.

In 2012, the CNMI had 143 businesses with 20 or more employees, representing 11.1 percent of all businesses. These businesses accounted for 61 percent or $804 million of total sales.

In 2007, 200 businesses had employment of 20 or more, representing 17.1 percent of all businesses. They accounted for 67.4 percent or $866 million of total sales.

'Grateful'

The governor said he is grateful for the assistance and guidance provided by U.S. Census Bureau "as we continue to rely on their expertise, capacity, and resources to augment our austerity conditions."

"We welcome this much needed report and we extended a sincere appreciation to Mr. Lee R. Wentela and his team for their patience as the CSD [Central Statistics Division] continues to rely on them for a lot of data assessments and collections," Inos said.

CSD is currently staffed with two personnel while other supporting staff are borrowed from within Commerce and the governor's office, he added.

Economic census data is important for everyone involved with the economy—from the government policy makers trying to assess potential impact of proposed legislation to the trade associations looking to assess trends within their industries, to the individual businesses trying to analyze potential new markets.

It also provides key input to the CNMI's gross domestic product calculations.

Wentela, for his part, also thanked the 1,339 business establishments in the CNMI, the local Commerce's Central Statistics Division, the Governor's Office, and the other government agencies that contributed to the completion of the latest census.

The 2012 economic census results for Guam were also released yesterday.

Wentela said the statistics for American Samoa will be released on May 6; the U.S. Virgin Islands, on July 15; and Puerto Rico, between February 2015 and September 2015.

JAYSON CAMACHO

The *man'amko,* government officials, Office on Aging staff, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs organizations, and supporters have their picture taken after the proclamation of May as Older Americans Month.

May is also Older Americans Month

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Office on Aging will be celebrating Older Americans Month/*Mes Man'amko* this month after a proclamation signing yesterday morning at the *Man'Amko* Center in China Town.

The proclamation aims to enrich the lives of senior citizens by emphasizing the need to take action to safeguard them from unintentional injuries where they live, work, and socialize.

The proclamation also calls for the need to educate the elderly on how to avoid the leading causes of injury for older adults and helping them take control of their safety and wellbeing.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he supports the proclamation because he regards himself as one of the older citizens of the CNMI.

"I'm more than qualified and its amazing that most of the folks here are 85 years old and this has a lot to do with their wellbeing; they got other peers to interact with," Inos said.

There are about 4,766 citizens ages 60 and older in the CNMI.

Inos said that everyone should be committed to helping individuals live longer and healthier lives.

Saipan Senior Citizen Advisory Council president Maria Salinas said the *man'amko* have made countless contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations.

"We will continue to display our talents and share it [with] the younger generation," Salinas said.

Inos urged every citizen to take time this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve and support them as powerful and vital citizens who greatly contribute to the community.

"It's always good to spend some time [with the *man'amko*] and I would like to be down here to spend some time with them and they have formed a cohesive group and they really care," he said.

Aging Office director Walter Manglona said it has been over 50 years since the U.S. government designated the month of May to honor and acknowledge the many contributions of older Americans in our communities and families.

"It is time to appreciate and celebrate their vitality and aspirations and the influence they have on each and every one of us," Manglona said.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, who was also at the proclamation signing, said he is honored to be there.

"The *man'amko* have been our mentors throughout our lives and we're happy that they are here and they are strong and it shows that the program is actually taking care of the *man'amko*," Flores said.

The occasion was witnessed by Aging Office staff, legislative officials, Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios, Aging Center congregates, and various departments under DCCA. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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- Cha Cha Junior High School

Shirley's Coffee Shop
- Oleai Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School

For inquiries please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171

$27M building project to rise

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth is gearing for another large investment: an eight-story modern residential building that will cost $27 million to build.

Tasi Homes, LLC executives H. Chieng Tan and Martin Castro made known this plan during a public hearing held at the Pedro Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center yesterday.

The company, which is applying for the government's qualifying certificate program, aims to develop 49 three-bedroom apartment units to be located along Hagoi Road corner lot near Sugar Dock. This will be built on a 2,975 square meter property with an estimated value of $450,000.

Based on the project plan, the building's first floor will have parking lots, elevators, a utility room, and administrative offices, among others. The apartment units will be from the second to the eighth floor. The building will also be equipped with backup generator and an underground storage tank.

The project's estimated $27 million price tag includes construction costs, consulting fees, and related expenditures. The company expects to hire over 100 workers during the construction period.

Earlier this year, the Commonwealth Development Authority approved Tasi Homes' Low Income Housing Tax Credit application. This time, the company is applying for tax breaks as provided under the CNMI Investor Incentive Act of 2000. Specifically, Tasi Homes is requesting a two-year waiver for both the developer's and excise taxes. Developer tax is levied on project construction cost while excise tax is considered the import tax.

According to Castro, there remains a high demand for additional multi-family rental units on Saipan. Tasi Homes, he said, will be providing 49 of these high quality dwellings for those who could not otherwise afford decent housing.

"The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. currently has approximately 475 applicants on its multifamily housing list and less than 370 on the waiting list are for Section 8 Vouchers. There is still a high demand for additional multifamily rental units on island," said Castro.

Bottom line

Businessman Norman Tenorio, who was one of a handful of people present in yesterday's public hearing, expressed concern about the amount of tax breaks that would be provided to the company.

"I am just wondering how much we're going to give away for this project? Do you know how much excise and developer tax they will be getting or not paying the government? I would like to know the bottom line," Tenorio said.

Citing estimates, H. Chieng Tan—who is also the owner of GPPC Inc.—said the requested tax breaks may be around $500,000.

Tenorio, however, doubts this. "I don't really believe that it's $500,000. Why is GPPC—a big company—so concerned about $500,000?" asked Tenorio, adding that Tasi Homes could just add this a mount to its cost rather than seek a waiver.

"All of us are paying taxes and here is a developer asking a waiver of excise and developer tax. And why are we going to waive these taxes? We in the business community, we have that responsibility to support the government with the excise tax to pay for the people that run the government, build infrastructure, roads, sewer, water. I run so many businesses, but this [tax] is part of cost…part of running a business," said Tenorio.

According to him, "If this is not a profitable business, why get into it?" He said the company could just absorb the cost as its contribution to the CNMI government.

"The project is good, there's no doubt about it. But why is the government going to sacrifice so many millions of dollars for such a project? I have nothing against the project itself, but please…contribute to the tax fund," Tenorio added.

Several others testified in support of the project, including David M. Sablan, Ivan Quichocho, Ed Arriola Jr., Alex Sablan, Ben Fejeran, and Oscar Babauta.

More developers

In response to Tenorio's concerns, H. Chieng Tan said it wasn't the original intention of Tasi Homes to seek tax relief. However, in the course of discussions with potential foreign investors, many questions came up, including tax issues.

"This is to make the project a little bit more attractive for investors. If we can get one or two investors, I think it will open up for more developers to come here. This is fairly a new ground and we should look at it that way," said Tan.

In an interview with CDA executive director Manuel Sablan after the hearing, it was learned that exact figures cannot be known until all analysis is completed on the company's packet application. He emphasized that CDA will review and analyze the application.

Muna finally gets permanent CEO position

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After almost a year of being the interim chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Esther Muña finally got the interim tag removed.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos approved Muña's appointment as permanent CEO last April 10.

"In accordance with Public Law 16-51 and with the recommendation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees, I am pleased to appoint you to serve as CEO," states the governor's letter to Muña.

Inos added that the board, in making its recommendation, has reviewed Muna's credentials. Subsequently, upon the governor's review, he agreed with the board that Muña does meet the requisite requirements of Public Law 16-51 and that she is qualified to be appointed to the CEO position.

Under P.L. 16-51, which created the corporation and its board, the appointed CEO will have a four-year term.

Under the law, the CEO shall have at least a master's degree in healthcare administration, business management, or relevant field of study from an accredited university or college. Also stipulated in the law is for the CEO to have at least seven years experience in healthcare management.

"The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is mandated to coordinate and provide the delivery of quality healthcare to the people in the Commonwealth in a financially responsible manner. I am confident that you will continue to devote your time and efforts to address and resolve the affairs of the corporation," stated the governor's appointment letter.

Muña, who has been with the healthcare agency for many years, occupied several positions in the past before becoming its CEO. She used to serve as the agency's chief financial officer and chief operations officer, among other positions.

When the board of trustees terminated the contract of then-corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta last year, Muña was named interim CEO beginning April 2013. The appointment included an increase in her salary from $85,000 to $96,000 per annum.

As permanent CEO, Muña heads the corporation's "governing body" that makes decision on the affairs of the organization.

It will be recalled that the Executive Branch, after the exit of former CEO Babauta in 2013, decided to announce the CEO and CFO positions. Nobody applied due to the "unattractive salary package" for both positions.

The corporation, however, continued its recruitment for a CFO and is anticipating that a qualified individual will be named soon.

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Pork Butt	$9.99
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Mixed signals from US Labor on CW extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Tuesday hearing in Washington, D.C. on Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill extending the immigration transition period by five years shows just how much mixed signals the U.S. Department of Labor has been giving whether or not it will extend the program that allows the CNMI access to some 10,000 foreign workers, and when.

Sablan got earlier assurance from U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez himself that he won't wait for the last minute before making and announcing a decision, and that a decision was already made.

But at the U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs' April 29 hearing on Sablan's H.R. 4296, U.S. Labor Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Megan J. Uzzell said the department is still in "review of existing studies" and "consultation" stage.

Perez has a July 4 deadline to decide whether to extend the CW program expiring on Dec. 31, 2014, which is just seven months away.

Sablan, during the hearing, could not hide his disappointment about the mixed signals from U.S. Labor, among other things.

He repeated Uzzell's statement that the U.S. Labor is "very sensitive to the need for making this determination expeditiously."

The CW extension can be done in either by a decision of the U.S. Labor secretary or by legislation, which is what Sablan's HR 4296 intends to do.

Two other bills pending in U.S. Congress also extend the CW program by five years: S. 1237 and H.R. 2200.

Negative consequences

Subcommittee chair John Fleming (R-Louisiana) helped take the cudgels for the CNMI in his opening statement when he said, "It's unlikely to go from 10,000 to zero this year without hurting the economy."

Fleming was referring to the estimated 10,000 foreign workers that would have to leave the CNMI after Dec. 31, 2014, if the CW program is not extended.

Sablan made the same point.

"Frankly, if we went from 10,000 foreign workers to zero at the end of this year, our economy would tank," Sablan said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview at a proclamation signing yesterday, said he appreciates that Fleming is "taking that position—or at least making that statement," and hopes that other members "will see that as well" so that H.R. 4296 could pass.

The governor said he also plans to soon write another letter to the U.S. Labor secretary, asking again to extend the CW program and to announce his decision sooner.

He said he will reiterate the "negative consequences for not making the announcement sooner."

The governor also wrote to Sablan on April 28 on the eve of the hearing in Washington, D.C., expressing his full support of H.R. 4296 extending the CW program by five years.

"To be direct, H.R. 4296 appropriately addresses and resolves incredibly significant issues that must as soon as possible be decided in order to ensure the immediate economic viability of the Northern Mariana Islands 'and' protect the individual welfare and livelihood of thousands of foreign workers and investors in the NMI," Inos said in his two-page letter, made available yesterday.

US workers

Inos also pointed out that the CNMI people are "slowly finding their place in the workforce and with business opportunities."

"However, the economy of the Northern Mariana Islands is not prepared at this time to lose these contributing members of our community and cannot survive if these workers and the foreign investors doing business here are required to close shop and return to their countries of origin on January 1, 2015," the governor said.

He added that the "unavoidable truth" is that the CNMI "needs more time to train and prepare its local citizenry to phase out its dependency on foreign workers.

Sablan said his bill does not change the goal of ultimately ending dependence on foreign workers, but stretches out the time to get there.

"My bill gives us another five years to train U.S. workers to fill jobs in our economy. We are already investing over $1 million in training each year. The money comes from the fee employers pay to hire foreign workers," he said.

Most of the CNMI's foreign workers are from the Philippines and other Asian countries, working in virtually all aspects of the economy.

What's next?

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Honolulu district director David Gulick testified on H.R. 4296 but took no official position on the bill.

Gulick fielded questions from Sablan during the hearing about the 10,000 foreign workers granted in fiscal year 2013 versus the cap of 15,000 foreign workers that USCIS had set for the year. The fiscal year 2014 cap is 14,000 workers.

Gulick said, "At the moment there is still some need for the room for growth."

He also said about 4,000 workers have been given status so far in 2014.

"So, obviously, there is continuing need for these workers," Sablan said.

Gulick did warn, however, that if there were no extension of the transition period, his agency would have to zero out the foreign worker permits at the end of this year.

The CNMI has been asking for a five-year extension to give them more time to train and employ as many U.S. citizen workers as possible to help fill the void that would be left by foreign workers once the CW program ends.

But foreign workers do not necessarily have to exit the CNMI after the CW program expires, if they qualify for an H visa, for example, that their employer would have to apply for them.

Asylum, E2C visa

H.R. 4296 also extends the E2C investor visa beyond Dec. 31, 2014, which Inos also supports.

The bill also extends the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applications, which is supposed to end Jan. 1, 2015. The governor also supports the exemption extension.

Inos also supports the bill's provision exempting the CNMI and Guam from the national cap on the H visas, which he said is also "perfectly appropriate and critical to the Department of Defense plans to realign U.S. forces from Okinawa to Guam and the Northern Marianas."

Two RFPs out for gaming consultant, casino investigator

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, along with Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, issued two separate requests for proposals for a casino investigator and a gaming consultant to assist the Lottery Commission in tackling the two applications for a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2 billion casino resort on Saipan.

» Lottery Commission meets today on casino applications

In an interview yesterday, Inos said the government "should be getting some response" in the near future.

He reiterated that funding for the consultant and investigator's hiring would come from the $2 million application fee that the two applicants paid.

The two Saipan casino applicants are Marianas Stars Entertainment, and Best Sunshine International Ltd.

The first RFP is for a "casino resort developer law enforcement review." In the RFP, the CNMI government said it seeks services of an experienced consultant to examine the gaming and financial background of the proposers.

The second RFP is for a "casino resort development consultant services," which must examine the two applicants to determine the feasibility of their proposals according to accepted professional standards for project development feasibility analysis.

The Lottery Commission, meanwhile, will hold its first official meeting at 1:30pm today to tackle the casino applications.

Lottery Commission chair Sixto Igisomar, also the Commerce secretary, said there would be time for public comment in the early part of the commission meeting, but this would be limited to about two minutes each.

He said the committee will then go into executive session.

The governor said he might also show up in the beginning of the Lottery Commission meeting.

Inos said yesterday he does not expect that the two applicants would deposit in an escrow account the $30 million ahead of the May 5 deadline, along with the business plan. The escrow deposit is required for an application to be further considered for a grant of an exclusive Saipan casino license.

Judge vacates Crisostomo's six-month prison sentence

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho corrected yesterday the six-month prison sentence he earlier imposed on Joseph A. Crisostomo for criminal contempt in connection with a drug case.

Finding that the sentence is illegal, Camacho vacated the six-month prison term and imposed no imprisonment sentence on Crisostmo for the criminal contempt conviction.

The judge pointed out that revocation of a suspended sentence, and not criminal contempt, is the appropriate sanction for a probation violation.

In this case, he said, Crisostomo's suspended sentence in a 2007 criminal case conviction was revoked in full.

Thus, Camacho said, he finds that the sentence imposed in the case last Feb. 28 was illegal insofar as it imposed six months of imprisonment for criminal contempt.

Removing the six-month prison term, Crisostomo will still serve a 10-year prison term.

Last Feb. 28, Camacho sentenced Crisostomo to the maximum of five years and six months in prison for possession of less than a gram of methamphetamine or "ice" and criminal contempt.

In his order yesterday, Camacho he finds it necessary to correct the sentence pursuant to Rule 35(a) of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure.

He said the conviction for criminal contempt in this case was based on a finding that Crisostomo's illegal possession of a controlled substance violated the May 8, 2008, judgment of conviction in the 2007 criminal case, which listed as a condition of probation that "defendant shall not possess nor consume alcohol or other intoxicating substances during the entire term of his probation."

On March 13, 2013, a couple of weeks following the conviction in this case, Crisostomo appeared before the court again in the 2007 criminal case for a probation revocation hearing.

Following the hearing, Camacho issued a revocation of probation and commitment order, which revoked the suspension of five years of the 10-year sentence imposed in the 2007 criminal case.

In effect, Crisostomo was sentenced to the full maximum term of 10 years imprisonment allowed for the underlying theft conviction. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, May 8th, 2014 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of April 3rd, 2014 minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application #2014-1106: H.S. Lee Construction is proposing to construct a 4-storey hotel with 60 rooms on TR 21073 and TR 21074 on Beach Road, Garapan. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located north of Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center, and across from I Love Saipan building. It is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature

E. New Business
1. Election of Board Treasurer
2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

H.S. Lee Construction

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. H.S. Lee Construction is proposing to construct a 4-storey hotel with 60 rooms on TR 21073 and TR 21074 on Beach Road, Garapan. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located north of Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center, and across from I Love Saipan building. It is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: **May 8th, 2014, Thursday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, May 7th, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Marine recruiter paves the way for the future of Saipan's youth

By SGT. VANESSA JIMENEZ
12TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT

MARINE CORPS RECRUITING STATION ORANGE COUNTY, Calif.—Saipan, beautiful and tropical, is the largest island of the Northern Mariana Islands, an unincorporated territory of the United States in the western Pacific Ocean.

On this 44-square-mile island with approximately 48,220 people there is one active duty Marine with a very unique mission.

Sgt. Gregorio D. Comeo, a canvassing recruiter with 12th Marine Corps District, has been on Saipan for a little over two years as the only Marine recruiter on the island.

"I'm a constant presence and pretty much the only service always visible here," said Comeo. "I have really built trust with the community, they feel at ease and like they can open up. Some of the students call me if they have a problem, and I like being here with them."

One of the reasons he likes being there is because he's originally from the Philippines. With a large Filipino community and the two islands in close proximity, he feels right at home.

With the tight bond he has with the community he wants to provide Saipan's youth with options and opportunities. Finding potential Marines on Saipan is not all that difficult, said Comeo, since the youth is very self-motivated, plus "people like the uniform."

While Comeo is the only Marine currently on the island, the people of Saipan are no strangers to the United States Marine Corps due to the Marines' fierce fighting at the Battle of Saipan during the Pacific Campaign of World War II.

On June 15, 1944, Marines landed on the beaches of the strategically significant island of Saipan against a garrison of approximately 30,000 Japanese troops. Saipan, which had been under Japanese rule since 1920, was also the nearest island to Japan. Gaining control of the island would afford the U.S. with the opportunity to establish a crucial air base for the Army's long-range B-29 Superfortress bombers. The air base would provide the allied forces with the ability to reach the Japanese homeland and by taking the main Mariana Islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Guam—the Japanese supply lines would be severed.

On July 9, the American flag was raised in victory over the island of Saipan. The loss of the island's strategic position stunned Tokyo. One Japanese admiral later commented that, "Our war was lost with the loss of Saipan."

While the island's location played a strategic role in the allied victory, the Marines' continue to view Saipan as a strategic recruiting ground for qualified young men and women to join the Marine Corps. Comeo is carrying on in his predecessor's tradition by providing the island youth with opportunities to thrive, but it's not without its difficulties.

The poverty level on Saipan is a challenge, said Master Sgt. Jonathon Whitehouse, Pacific Assistant Recruiter Instructor for Recruiting Station Orange County. "Most kids here don't have Internet and some can't even afford shoes."

Most families can't afford medical insurance either. This is problematic if an applicant is medically disqualified, even for something as simple as too much wax in their ears that could require a hearing test.

When sending an applicant to process at the Military Entrance Processing Station, Comeo has to send them to Guam, about a 55-minute plane ride.

"A kid on the mainland could have the consult paid for by MEPS," said Whitehouse. "But a [simple hearing test] could hold a kid up from enlistment because a family on Saipan doesn't have medical coverage.

"I just think it's important for the public to understand there are people from all different climes and places who want to serve in the United States Marine Corps, and we do our best even though we're a small branch to cover as much area as possible," Whitehouse continued. "But things like the budget cuts impacted recruiting in the Pacific; it's affecting the ability to build America's military with the right people."

Despite the obstacles, Comeo is thriving, sometimes writing three and four contracts a month. His main goal while on recruiting duty is to be the recruiter of the year for his recruiting station headquartered in Orange County, Calif., and he already earned the titles of Rookie of the Month and Recruiter of the Quarter.

"Here's a Marine who's on one of the hardest [secondary] billets in the Marine Corps, forward deployed with little to no direct supervision, and he's doing it on his own with his own initiative," said Whitehouse.

OVR burglarized over Easter weekend

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation on Navy Hill was burglarized over the Easter holiday and an estimated $8,400 worth of items was stolen.

The burglar(s) managed to enter the OVR N-4 Building by removing an air-conditioner window unit. Several doors and locks were destroyed. The stolen items were all from within the building and include four new iPads that were to be distributed to OVR counselors after the holidays, one laptop, a desktop computer with monitor and backup battery, projector, stereo system with dual speakers, and a consumer cell phone.

On top of the loss of the stolen items, repairs to ensure the security of the OVR building cost the program an additional $2,500.

If you have any information about this incident, call the Department of Public Safety at 911, the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigations at 664-9042/44, Crime Stoppers at 234-7272, or OVR at 322-6537/38. ***(OVR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Women's Association meeting set

The CNMI Women's Association would like to inform the general public that their next general membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2014, at 6:30pm at the Garapan Community Development Center. For further details, call us at 233-8978. ***(PR)***

Do Re Mi Music School sets Annual Concert

The Do Re Mi Music School is having its 22nd Annual Concert on May 9 and 10, from 7pm to 9pm each evening at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Tickets are available by calling 233-7777 and will also be available at the door: $10 for adults and $5 for children. The concert will include pieces from Tchaikovsky, Paganini, Wentawski and Mendelssohn, among others. ***(PR)***

Detonation of WWII ordnance tomorrow

The Department of Public Safety will be blocking off the northern part of Saipan, from Marpi north, on Friday, May 2, 2014, from 12pm to 3pm, to dispose of a collection of unexploded ordinance that has been collected by the Department of Public Safety Explosive Response Team. All visitors to these popular areas of the island are encouraged to make arrangements to visit either in the morning before the 12pm deadline or after the operation has completed at 3pm. Anyone with questions can contact the Explosives Response Team Operational Supervisor Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. ***(DPS)***

Election office in Susupe opens every Saturday

The Commonwealth Election Commission's office in Susupe will be open every Saturday, starting May 3, 2014, from 10am to 2pm for those CNMI residents who would like to register to vote for the 2014 general election to be held on Nov. 4, 2014. As initiative(s) regarding Article 7 of the NMI Constitution will also be on the November ballot, registration for Northern Marianas Descent Registry will also be accepted. CNMI residents who wish to register to vote must provide a copy of a valid U.S passport or a certification of live birth as proof of U.S citizenship. Those who wish to register for the Northern Marianas Decent Registry must provide a copy of their certificate of live birth. For more information, contact the commission's office at 664-VOTE (8683). ***(CEC)***

BECQ Cleanup Brigade eyes Tank Beach

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman this Saturday, May 3, 2014, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at Tank Beach at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Notice to graduating MHS seniors

To all graduating Marianas High School seniors: Your cap, gown, and tassels are in and available for pick up in the Main Office. Distribution schedule is as follows:

- Last names D – J : May 1
- Last names K – M : May 2
- Last names N – S : May 5
- Last names T – Z : May 6
- Students who did not order, but need graduation items: May 9 (full payment is required)

Pick up times will be from 7:30am to 8:30am and 3pm to 4:30pm. Full payment is required for items to be released. Last day to pick up your items will be on May 7. Items that are not picked up by then will be made available to students who did not get to order in advance. If you are not able to pay by the specified date, make arrangements with Ms. Tudela by calling the Main Office at 237-3206.***(MHS)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a regular meeting on **Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of the Minutes – April 14, 2014 Meeting
  E. Correspondence
II. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
III. CONTRACT REVIEWS
  A. Fuel Contract with Mobil Oil
  B. Expiring Contracts
  C. Presentations
    a. Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment
    b. Integrated Resource Plan
IV. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
  A. Report on CHC/PSS Accounts Receivable
  B. Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission – Legislative Rate Changes
  C. Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause – Petition for Revised Methodology
  D. SB 18-40 – Decoupling Rota Water System – Draft Response
  E. By-Laws
V. PUBLIC COMMENTS*
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VII. ADJOURNMENT

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 06, 2014, at 10:00 A.M. at the DCRM Office located on Tekken Street, Susupe.

AGENDA

I). PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  a) Call to Order
  b) Roll Call

II). PERMIT APPLICATION
  Ironwood Blue Water Homes, LLC - 80 Unit Multi-Family Housing
  CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2014-X-020
  1. Permit Application Summary
  2. Discussion by DCRM Agencies/DCRM
  3. Permit Application Status

III). OTHER MATTER
  PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DCRM RULES AND REGULATIONS

IV). ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Agencies may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/FRANCES A. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Tinian Field Office, San Jose, Tinian. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    i. April 23, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
  a. Update on CDBG Matters
    1. On-going Projects
  b. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
  c. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
    1. Loan Revision Requests
    2. Loans for Approval
IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
  a. Rota Field Office
  b. Tinian Field Office
V. OLD BUSINESS
  a. Update on Housing Expo
  b. Fiscal Division Assessment
  c. FY 2013 Audit Update
VI. FISCAL AFFAIRS
  a. FY 2015 Budget Amendment
  b. Open Interest-Bearing Account
VII. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IX. OTHER MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Release the CIA's torture report

How much should the American public be allowed to know about the use of torture and other forms of cruelty practiced by U.S. interrogators against captives of the war on terror? Everything.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, the Bush administration relied on controversial legal justifications dutifully supplied by the Justice Department to figuratively (and perhaps literally) put the screws to every known and suspected terrorist held in "black sites" around the world by the CIA.

Exactly what was done in the name of protecting U.S. national security is not known. Although the use of torture came under severe criticism from the moment the first reports surfaced, most Americans appeared to support doing whatever was necessary to avoid another series of disastrous attacks.

But was the torture worth it? Did the use of torture to gain information from terrorist suspects make the nation safer, or was the government's embrace of a morally reprehensible tactic unnecessary?

It depends on whom you ask.

A 6,200-page classified report produced by the Senate Intelligence Committee concludes that in 20 separate cases the staff investigated, the same information could have been obtained without resorting to brutal methods. The report, which took four years to compile, claims torture failed to produce significant intelligence and did not prevent further attacks.

John Rizzo, the CIA former top lawyer, told the McClatchy Washington Bureau that the Senate report is wrong. He said interrogations under torture yielded "detailed, valuable information into terrorist plots." The claim that the agency supplied inaccurate details about the program is also false, Mr. Rizzo said.

It is impossible to know who is telling the truth unless the public is allowed to see significant portions of the report. The Senate panel voted to release a 400-page summary, but has allowed the White House—with the aid of the CIA and the Pentagon—to delete whatever they deem too sensitive for public consumption.

The White House should waste no time getting it out, nor should the CIA and other interested agencies have free rein to censor whatever they choose. Their involvement must be limited and deletions should be kept to a minimum because the details that have leaked out so far are troubling at every level, including the use of torture methods that went well beyond waterboarding.

The claim that torture was not effective goes to the heart of the issue. Few today contend that torture is anything but immoral, but from the outset the program has been defended as necessary and effective. Unless the report is released without significant censorship, how is the public to judge?

The government must not pass up this chance to come clean. Releasing the report can have a curative effect. It should become the first step in fixing accountability for mistakes, and ensuring that it can never happen again.

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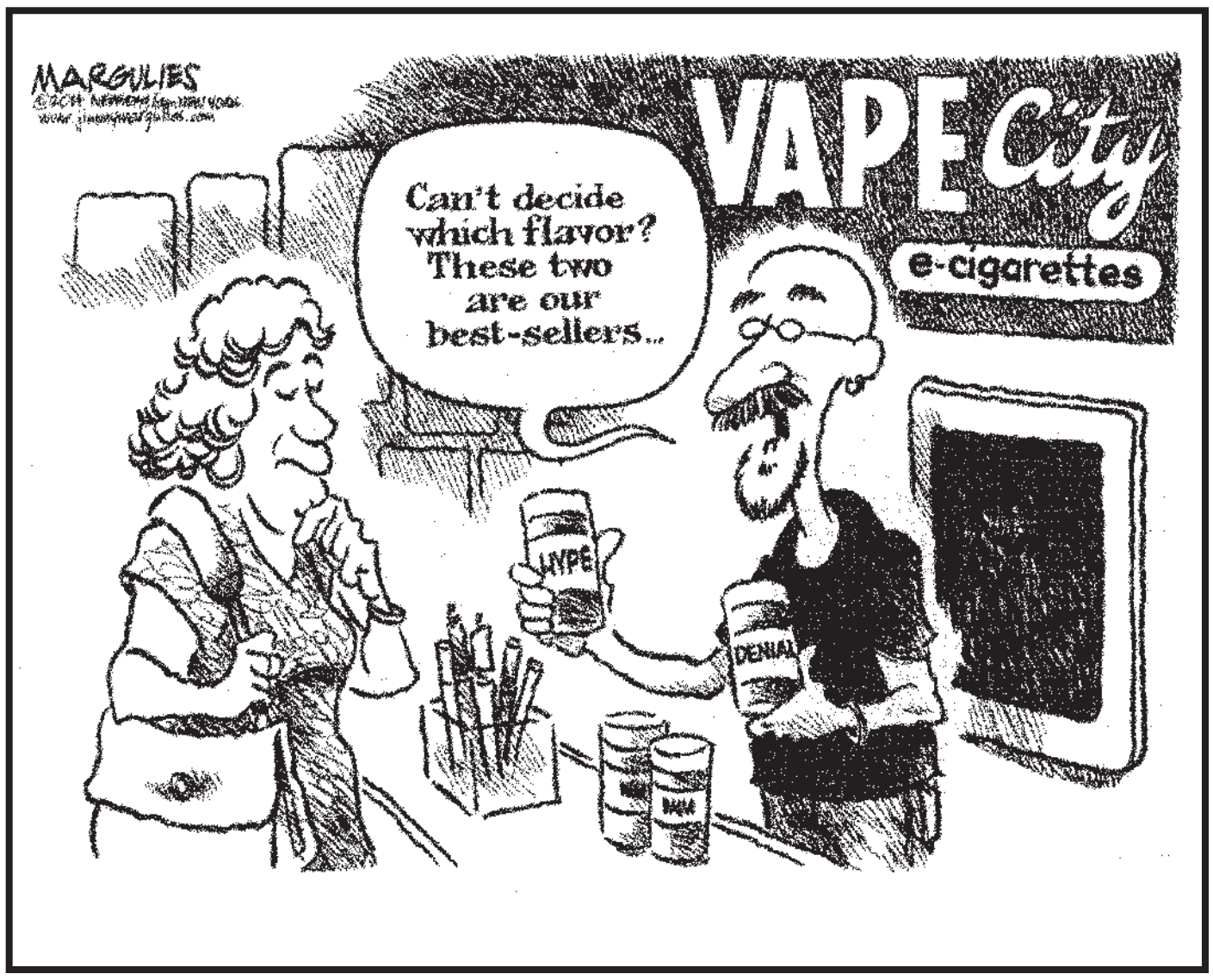


Laodong Jie, Workers' Day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I subbed for a colleague from Hawaii in his English tutorial classes for children in Shenyang. He hightailed it to Hong Kong to renew his Chinese business visa. We both volunteer weekends to teach young Chinese students oral English.

Last week, in dealing with one of his 10- to 13-year-old groups, I got them talking about themselves, a subject they do not need to be told about, nor do they need to do any research to be knowledgeable about it. In exchange, I gave them permission to ask any question of me. Anything. The object was not in the getting-to-know-you realm as it was to get the dialogue/Q&A going.

The students used a lot of abstract terms to speak of themselves, like "I am energetic and I am an optimistic person" or "my parents, they love me very much, and I love them very much, too." Which was fine because it left open questions of grounding, on describing the concrete data of what may be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched behind the terms they used.

Nor did they talk of their feelings. Chinese are culturally coached that being a peon in the heap of mass humanity, their individual feelings do not count much, unless they are aligned to acceptable social sentiments appropriate to their age, gender, and station in life. So I pushed them to recall "sense experiences."

A general context in my pedagogy is always to leave the "face" *(mianzi)* outside the classroom; I also encourage students to express what they feel. Emotive discourse among Chinese is not normal (it is personal and secret) so avoidance was ingrained. "Exhibitionists" (like me, a playful term I earned from a psychologist acquaintance) are deemed the exception.

Of the questions of me, I responded in a way that coursed through the path of experience and feelings. I modeled my response to the way I expected them to talk for clarity and substance. One of the animal science students (she loves pets, particularly the "one that chases the mouse," the "domestic cat"), asked the innocuous question: "What is your favorite color?"

For more than a decade in the '70s and early half of '80s, I was a member of a family "religious order" that appropriated "blue" as the color of our "habit." The words in quotes were internal to us, for in public we were not distinguished from the ordinary Joe Blow and Susie Wong, not like the medieval monastic orders whose members sometimes were seen with habits of woolen frocks, soutane, or cassock, even in the heat of the tropics. Inversely, Opus Dei guys I knew, the Pope's storm troopers that replaced the Jesuits, wore business suits in offices that specialized in economics, the queen science of the times.

I was called a "Blue Shirt" in the Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Tonga. My colleagues and I did not debate ideology, nor lobby to legislate mandates, so intellectual liberals and policy wonks shunned our company. We were rather out to influence cultural behavior, so the question of what we thought took a back seat to what we did.

"It is the intensification of our Knowing and our Doing that manifest our Being," was my favorite conversation and dialogue starter, which got me disserting well past midnight, weaving a circular discourse that invariably baffled linear logicians and disciplined academic thinkers.

My questioner was being chatty. I told her and the class that most of my attire was "blue," and the navy blue in my outfit was in solidarity with the common laborer and worker of the world, often referred to as the "blue collar" worker. I didn't tell her that "blue movies" are for indecent films, and getting the "blues" meant wallowing in the basement level of depression and despair. "Blues" in American jazz proceeded from the soul, and it hankered close to lamentation.

I have always been partial to the common worker since I smelled copra in the coco groves of Sanchez Mira in northern Luzon of my childhood. My mother was once offered to buy a Philippine Sweepstakes ticket that she did not bother to take but she remembered the number. When it won one of the top five prizes, she was curious who bought it. The shop that offered it to her closed shop quickly and went the way of the nouveau riche. The family did not survive well the intrusion of wealth into their family budget. No sour grapes here. It is just to say that I stayed with the army of struggling workers, like the coconut gatherers and copra huskers, in my career.

"International workers of the world, unite" was once a political cry from the Haymarket incident in Chicago that birthed the labor movement on the first of May from which the International Labor Day got its start. The U.S. chose September for its Labor Day so as not to identify with the disgrace of the incident.

I am still a "blue shirt" at heart and discipline, albeit not too fond of the limited directions organized labor took in fostering its course. But today is a reminder that those who toil at the behest of other's investment (aka imported workers in the CNMI) have a long way to go to see their humanity at par with privileged and elitist *homo sapiens*, in China and across the globe.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Man-ñahlalañg na biahe

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Yangin 2,000 na kuattu ha nesessita i Saipan casino, `nos kuantos asuntu ha pega fuetsau ni debi to oppe sin ditension: Siempre ha nesessita 5,000 na empleau `nai mas bula tautau hiyuñg guine. Manu `nai para umahatsa este na fasilidat? Tanu` praibet pat publiku?

Ya haf` na tanu` para i mas ke 5,000 na applikanten residential homestead? Kau propiu na i interest inestablesen primet gima` familia u madagau ta`lu gi un` banda? Kau una` fan ke`yau hit ta`lu i interes man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni?

■■■

Dispues de 30 años deste ke ha diñgu Marianas, mattu i prohimu man-bisita kumu ritirau na sergeant major. Anog ginen mañaña na dañkulu apattau esta yan kutturan tano`ña. I didision lamayot patte pot appottunidat familiaña. U hanau tatte lau siempre mafattu espiritun minahalañg gi isla `nai mafañagu-gue`. Komprendiyon.

■■■

`Nai ma-offrese flitadan guaka ha renunsia. Ha ayeg dinibanan pan yan hamburger ni ha fuyot para amotsaña. Kase pot trenta años tumaigueña guine na maliñgu gi santatte i kutturaña. Lau pot nesessidat familiaña.

■■■

Deste 1904 ha fahan si bisabuelluña un` dañkulun tanu` ni mafa` pastahen guaka. Sige pa`gu i federat man-estotba pot apas atkilon. Yangin hagas tanu` familia, haf` bisnesña i federat umesuette gi hagas lanchon guaka deste antes? Direchon man-dueñu debi umaprotehe!

■■■

`Nai mafañagu patgon isla, dos ha soda` deste ke echu tautau: dikiki` na tanu` yan dañkulun tasi. Todo atmos banda `nai ma-establese kuttura yan tradision natibu. Pa`gu, man-mahogse hit areglun federat `nai guiya siempre umaprubecha apas minan tano`ta yan tasi-ta. Haf` hinasson miyu nu este yan kau propiu ta petsige pot futtuna-ta?

■■■

Hana`e-yu` un` amiguhu fina` dandan ni mauleg para adelanton titanos. Tula noche hu dandan mientras sigeyu` mañgge`. `Nai monhayanyu`, hu rikonose kau guaha adelantu gi titanos-hu. Trabiha parereru ha` moduru-hu. Hu funas! Tatnai sisida una` lamen-yu` mas.

■■■

Ha faisenyu` un` nietun diñga haf` na ti malagoyu` na u finatinase chocolate cake as bihaña. Hu repite na guahu ha` solu siña managu` kumu asagua. Fan espiha pindehu asaguamu! Ai na grasian ham na dos sa` trabiha sais años ha` i prohimu.

■■■

Un` finu na balaku tuminane` gi halom tanu`. `Nai ni mona ni tatte, fuetsau hana` setbe kalulotña umetguegue`. `Nai ha tantan ñaihon ha danche pidason hayu. Puti mampos na hana` hanau halom gi pachotña ya kontodu take`ña. Kochinu!

■■■

Sige amiguhu Magoo chaka chalegña `nai mapapatten tiau asuntu siha ni man-kandidadatu para mayot entalu` Luta yan sankattan siha na islas. Para Luta, buena yangin guaha planon mafahan batku para lateria siha. Parehu na asuntun nesessidat giya Tinian.

Saipan maseha umana` halom planon mananum flores tamantiget pot para u suha gi areglon galagu. I sankattan mauleg yangin guaha planon para mafahan sahyan dulalas--chopper. Ai haf` na satdinas i manadan kandidatu siha.

■■■

`Nai madispone i sumen hihot na amiguña, mañgge` i prohimu kantaña, "Ta`lu Dididi Mas" maseha pot amesta yan mames siha na memorias deste antes. Paire na tunada pot hagas tiempon niha gumandu gi kanton tasi hulu` esta i hegsu` sabana.

■■■

Sige tumañges i prohimu `nai masañgane na para uma-utot sanotña pot lamas ginen chetnot daibites. Hafaisen i asaguaña ya haf` i otru sañotña, ineppe, "Siempre uma-utot lokue` piot ya un` daflogue hau inasnen tukon atulai". Dios mihu na finu` chatkonsuelu!

■■■

I tutuhon chetnot parehu yan hanom gi puntan talapos. Adumididi` sige halom estake todu masmai. Solu un` hala yan fugu` ensegidas, siempre u fattu gi punta. Adahe hinemlu` miyu!

■■■

Pot tres semana todu man-hahalom gi Emergency Room gi hospitat puru esalau pot putin pechu. Ti hu tuñgu` na guaha pestin pechudu na chetnot.

Afañielos, gaige i hale` probleman natibu hinemlu` gi sentada. Taya` ineskohe haf` ta sumumuke pachotta kumu ta suhon halom. Pot fabot adahe dididi` kinanu` miyu. Suhaye ma`asin, mantika yan mames siha na neñkanu` yan gimen.

Hahassu na ni unu mafañagu yan chetnot. Lau todu haf` dispues un` petsige siempre u dinikta haf` hinemlo`mu gi karera mona. Huñgan makat ta tatiye haf` propiu lau ennau na disision gaige solamimu giya hagu na maisa. Dispues, pot fabot fan man-osge tinagu` i mediku ya in` gimen amot miyu.

Muñga mama` mediku ya un` ta`lon dumispone tinago`ña amot. Gigon ti man-osge hau siempre u inatisa mas chetnotmu ke tutuhon. Debi ta pulan maisa hit sa` diberas guaguan gaston hinemlu`.

Dispues, ti bali un` makoni`e ni mas mauleg gi tanu` na medikun korason `an esta mayamag todu sensing korasonmu `sino todu gigatmu man-hinichum mantika. Gaige este na disposision gi hagu mismu namaisa.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez takes his place in the pantheon

By HOMERO ARIDJIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY—The first time I met Gabriel Garcia Marquez, then an unknown writer in Mexico, was on July 6, 1962, in the office of the producer of Luis Bunuel's movie *Viridiana*. I remember the date well because after noticing the headline, Gabo asked to borrow the evening paper I had just bought, exclaiming "Dammit, today my master died," referring to William Faulkner.

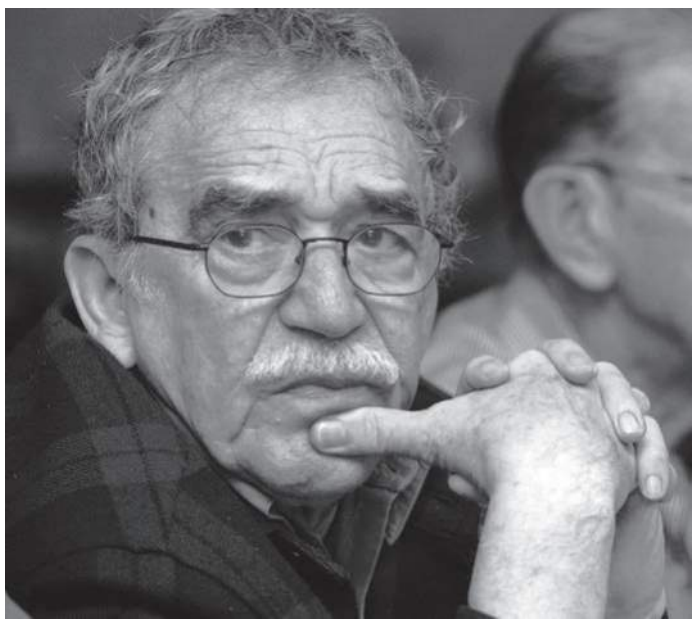
Faulkner famously detested intrusions in his private life, and the funeral in his native Oxford, Miss., was sparsely attended by several dozen family members, his publishers and a few writers. In his chronicle of the event in *Life* magazine, William Styron describes the "monumental heat" as the procession drove past stores closed for the event and townspeople lining the streets, although, according to a local resident, "None of them ever read a word of him." The coffin was buried "on a gentle slope between two oak trees."

My wife, Betty, and I would occasionally run into Gabo at the Cafe Tirol, a writers' and artists' hangout in the Zona Rosa here. One afternoon in 1963, he gave us a ride home. When we got out of the car, he asked if I had read *Big Mama's Funeral.* I had never seen the book anywhere. Throwing open the trunk to reveal stacks of copies, he said, "Take as many as you want; at least someone intelligent will read it."

One day in 1964, Ramon Xirau, editor of the literary magazine *Dialogos*, where I was assistant editor, invited Gabo and me to a fancy restaurant for lunch. For an hour Gabo and I stood waiting by the cash register, until Gabo suggested that I invite him to lunch myself. I didn't have a cent, as Xirau was supposed to pay me that day. Gabo didn't have any cash either. Finally we called Xirau's house, to be told by the maid that he was lunching with his in-laws. Gabo and I went to our homes to eat alone, for our wives had made other plans.

Everything changed for Gabo in 1967 with the publication of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, greeted with rabid enthusiasm by readers and reviewers. In New York, I saw a Puerto Rican talking to a lion in the Central Park Zoo, shouting "Hey, Charlie, hey Charlie" as he pounded on a copy of *Cien Anos de Soledad.* Aracataca, Gabo's birthplace in Colombia, had metamorphosed into Macondo, midwifed by Rabelais and Kafka, Faulkner and Juan Rulfo, whose *Pedro Paramo* and *The Burning Plain* had been pressed on him by the Colombian novelist Alvaro Mutis with the admonition to read them and learn how to write.

During the first Ibero-American Summit, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1991, Gabo and I presented a proposal for a continental environmental alliance to the assembled heads of state, including King Juan Carlos of Spain, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and Secretary-General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar. Protection of forests and a pact to save the Amazon were among our priorities, along with migratory species such as sea turtles and birds.



AP

In this 2003 photo released by the Fundación Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano, Colombian Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez, left, is seen in Monterrey, Mexico.

On Aug. 24, 2005, we met in the Church of Santo Domingo at the funeral service for Natasha Fuentes Lemus, Carlos Fuentes' younger daughter, who had been found dead two days earlier. Gabo turned to me and said, "Damn, I'm not going to write anymore." His wife, Mercedes Barcha, asked, "Why do you tell Homero that?" to which he replied, "If I don't tell Homero, whom should I tell?" And indeed, *Memories of My Melancholy Whores*, published in 2004, was his last book.

At 3:18pm on April 21, the funeral procession with Gabo's ashes departed from his home of the last 30 years on Fuego Street, escorted by a phalanx of traffic police on motorcycles for the 12-mile drive to the ornate Palace of Fine Arts in downtown Mexico City, where long lines of fans patiently awaited their chance to stand guard beside the urn for a moment, after passing through strict security procedures. Prolonged applause greeted the urn when it was placed on a pedestal shortly after 4pm.

Live coverage on national TV had begun in midafternoon. Inside the palace a string quartet played excerpts from Gabo's favorites: Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Dvorak and Mendelssohn, while outside a trio playing the popular Colombian folk music known as vallenato alternated with readings from Gabo's books. A storm broke as luminaries from the world of literature and politics gathered in the palace waiting for Enrique Pena Nieto, president of Mexico, and Juan Manuel Santos, president of Colombia, to make their entrances and give their speeches. Absent from the cultural diplomacy and presidential homage was Fidel Castro, Gabo's friend since the 1960s.

As the special guests exited the Palace of Fine Arts, a blizzard of yellow paper butterflies was blown over the crowd, still looking forward to a few seconds of Gabo's magical aura.

Word has it that as a son of both countries, Gabo's ashes will be shared by Mexico and Colombia, unlike those of his great friend Carlos Fuentes, who chose to be buried in Montparnasse Cemetery in Paris, where the remains of Natasha and his son, Carlos, already lay, or those of his fellow Nobel Prize winner Octavio Paz, thought to still be in the possession of his widow.

Another Latin American Nobel winner, poet Pablo Neruda, died in Santiago, Chile, on Sept. 23, 1973, 12 days after the CIA-backed military coup against Salvador Allende's government. All public meetings were forbidden, but when his widow, Matilde Urrutia, set out from their house, which had been vandalized during the coup, with his coffin and a military escort, she was joined along the way by some 2,000 people. Upon arriving at the cemetery, they began to sing the socialist anthem *The Internationale*. Neruda's death had prompted the first open protest against Augusto Pinochet.

When Victor Hugo died in 1885, he was hailed as a hero of the Third Republic and his body lay in state under the Arc de Triomphe and military regiments and bands escorted the funeral carriage down the Champs-Elysees, past chestnut trees in blossom, and across the Pont de la Concorde to his final resting place in the Pantheon. Two million people were reported to have followed its progress.

Surely that many and more followed today's homage to Gabo on television. One thing is for certain, however: Magic realism has died with its most wildly imaginative practitioner.

Homero Aridjis is a poet, novelist, environmentalist and former Mexican ambassador to UNESCO, and the author of A Time of Angels. *This essay was translated by Betty Ferber from the Spanish.*

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

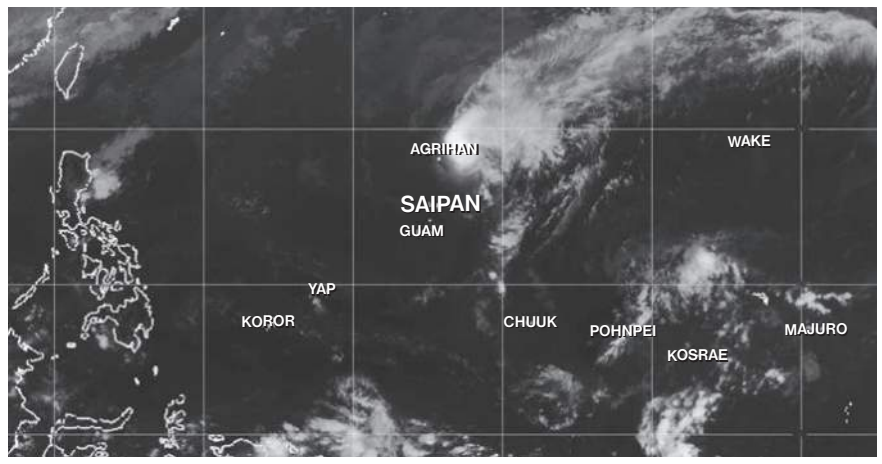
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲73	▼70
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
London	Thundershowers	▲59	▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲97	▼64
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
New York	Showers	▲70	▼51
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Paris	Showers	▲60	▼50
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼54
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲71	▼46
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Tapah (06W) is centered 95 miles east of Agrihan near 19N147E moving north at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 70 miles of the center.Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of Tapah between 21N and 16N from 148E to 153E. For more information on Typhoon Tapah, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service on Guam under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Converging winds near the equator are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Yap or south of a line from 1N135E to 1N146E. A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N172E to 22N141E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 380 miles north of this boundary from 22N141E to 23N164E. Similar weather is located along and up to 200 miles north of the front east of 23N164E. A surface trough extends northeast between Kosrae and Pohnpei from 3N158E to 11N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present north of Kosrae between 13N and 8N from 157E to 166E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring just east of Pohnpei within 50 miles of a line from 5N157E to 8N160E. Similar Weather is found south and east of Kosrae within 140 miles of a line from EQ161E to 5N167E. A trade-wind disturbance crossing the date line is generating scattered showers east of the Marshall Islands between 12N and 6N from 175E to the date line. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Majuro between 10N and 8N from 168E to 175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
11:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:17 AM	8:24 PM
Friday	8:07 AM	9:16 PM
Saturday	8:57 AM	10:05 PM
Sunday	9:47 AM	10:52 PM
Monday	10:37 AM	11:36 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

CNMI drill teams perform exceptionally in Calif. drill meet

The Golden Bear West Coast Drill Meet is a national drill competition hosted by CSM (retired) Raul Duran on an annual basis. This year the competition took place at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

This GBWC drill meet was founded in April 2000 and has grown to be one of the largest national drill meets of the West Coast in the United States. The drill meet consisted of four schools from Guam and Saipan as well as 12 schools from the Western States outside of California. The rest of the schools hailed from the state of California, making a whopping total of 62 schools. Competing teams included Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Navy units. These teams came from the public school domain, private schools, and military academies.

This was the second consecutive year that the CNMI drill teams have competed in this national competition. The CNMI PSS JROTC Program was proudly represented by the Saipan Southern High School Drill Team in the Armed Category and the Rota High School Drill Team in the Unarmed Category. These teams performed exceptionally during the competition.

The drill competition's portion of the day included individual cadet, two-man, four-man, armed team, and unarmed team competitions. In the Armed Category, schools competed with demilitarized rifles to perform routines consisting of marching, spinning, and tossing with sharpness and precision. The Unarmed Category consisted of creating beats with the hands and feet. These beats must be done with uniformity to create a champion. The color guard category is among the most stressful and demanding category of all. A four-man team consists of an American flag bearer, state flag bearer, and two guards with demilitarized rifles.

Saipan Southern High School JROTC finished second overall in the Armed Division in the Combined Sweepstakes. They won first place in the Varsity Armed Regulation Event, third place in the Armed Color Guard, third place in the Armed Dual Exhibition, third place in the Novice Color Guard, first place for the Most Outstanding Commander Overall in the Armed Division, and first place in Unarmed and Armed "Tap Out" Event.

Rota High School took fifth place in the Unarmed Regulation Drill Event and fifth place in the Armed Exhibition Event.

All of the CNMI PSS JROTC instructors and assistants deserve a great deal of credit and recognition for their outstanding training of these highly motivated cadets. The level of execution has risen markedly over the past few years across the board for all five of our programs.

The SSHS cadre included Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Basa and Sgt. Maj. Joaquin Kiyoshi. Rota High School JROTC cadre included Master Sgt. Juan Salas, SFC Chris Sarmiento, and Leadership Corps instructor Edwin Orilla.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Manta Ray Battalion places second overall at the Golden Bear National Drill Meet in California on April 26, 2014 Saturday (California time).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard Team wins Color Guard Novice third place.

LTC (retired) Bob Gay, director of Army Instruction, stated that the level of performance and execution demonstrated by the CNMI PSS JROTC drill teams was outstanding. "It was evident during our own CNMI drill meet last month that each of our JROTC drill teams had markedly improved."

Gay said that all of the CNMI JROTC Programs have collectively worked hard to ensure that cadets have the opportunity to compete at the national level, not only in drill but also in academics and leadership. This year Kagman High school qualified two teams for the National JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl finals. This is the first time a CNMI JROTC Program has qualified in both academics and leadership in the same year. Saipan Southern High School JROTC also qualified this year for J/LAB in the leadership competition. Only the top 3 percent of the 1,700 JROTC programs worldwide make the cut for this prestigious honor.

"We will continue to develop and compete in events such as this one and provide the opportunity for our cadets to go up against the best in the nation," Gay said.

He thanked the Board of Education, the Education Commissioner, and all of the principals and administrators for their support of the JROTC. He also recognized and thanked the JROTC DAI MSU Office Staff for their effective and loyal support. He also singled out the great work done by the CNMI PSS Central Staff, to include Finance, Federal Programs and Travel.

Gay and staff also thanked the Golden Bear Drill Meet director Duran for hosting the event for the past 10 years. "The level of operational and logistical support required to host an event of this magnitude is prodigious," Gay said. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadet Capt. Jude Palacios wins first place Most Outstanding Commander and also competed and won first place in Unarmed Tapout.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School's Buck Battalion and Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion under the CNMI MSU Drill Team competed in the Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Meet on April 26 in Los Alasmitos, California.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

C/CPT Amante Andrada and C/CPT Condrad Calub win third place in the Armed Dual Exhibition.

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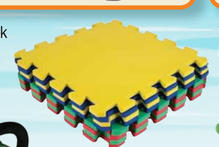

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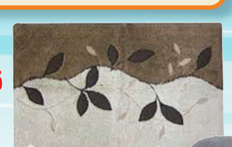

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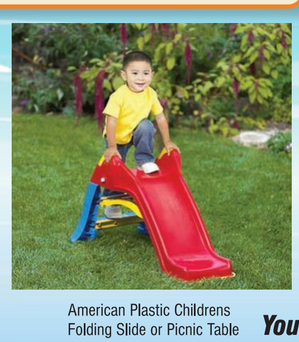

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Group on Article 12 proposes amendments to law

The Citizens for Change of Article XII, a non-profit group, presented their proposed amendment to Article 12, the islands' land alienation law, before members of the Rotary Club of Saipan on Tuesday.

Attorney Vincent J. Seman, chairman of the group, told Rotary members that their proposed amendments involve Article 12's section 1, 2, and 4.

"We are here to explain that we can fix Article 12 and we have to fix it. It's been over 25 years since Article 12 was enacted, and we're here to explain about placing it on the ballot," Seman said.

According to him, they are doing a "hybrid initiative" to both amend Article 12 and to have the amendments placed on the ballot as well.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, who is also a part of the group to change Article 12, said there is a need to remove the mandatory restrictions on the alienation of land and allow landowners to elect to restrict the alienation of their own land.

According to Aldan-Pierce, there are 15,914 registered voters as of Feb. 2, 2014, and the number is expected to go up in the coming months. Signatures of about 50 percent of this total, which is 7,957, are required to put the Article 12 questions on the ballot and their goal is 8,500 signatures.

Aldan-Pierce said that they are supposed to submit the petition to the Office of the Attorney General by June 5 this year.

Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods general manager Jay Santos said that Article 12 is an issue that voters should decide.

"This petition is to get the issue on the ballot so the people can decide whether to keep the restrictions of Article 12 or give themselves and future generations the opportunity to be free to choose and mend the value of their land," Santos said.

Santos said that no one is being forced to sell their land and no one can ever be forced to sell their land.

"We are not encouraging anyone to sell their land. This petition is to give you, the landowner, the free choice of what to do with your land," he said.

This does not change the fact that some people have no choice but to sell their land for urgent matters, he said. Urgent matters that cause most landowners to sell their land include medical emergencies, college tuition, and unexpected loss of jobs that are happening everyday.

"This initiative intends to allow people to get the best value for their land if their decision is to sell their land," Santos said.

Santos also explained that people would rather get loans using their land as collateral and Article 12 is "too high a risk for banks to extend many kinds of loans." This leaves landowners no other choice but to sell.

"By signing this petition, you are not voting yes or no on Article 12. You are, however, asking for it to be put on the ballot for all of us and most important to allow the majority of the present voters to cast their voice on Article 12, a law that will impact them the most as we move on," Santos said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

How to sign Article 12 petition

The Citizens for Change of Article XII is leading a popular initiative that proposes a constitutional amendment for the people of the CNMI to vote to amend Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution to remove the mandatory restriction on the alienation of land and allow land owners to elect to restrict the alienation of their own land.

The initiative gives each landowner the option of either accepting or rejecting the restrictions of Article 12 in respect to their land. "It is in the best interest of the Commonwealth and its citizens that the question of whether to retain the protections of Article 12 be resolved by direct action of the people by placing this issue on the ballot at the next election," the group said.

To sign the petition, contact Cathy Cepeda at csablancepeda@gmail.com, any of CCART12 members or visit them on the following dates/time and venue:

- Thursday, May 1, 4pm-6pm, Garapan Pavilion (across JP Center)
- Friday, May 2, 4pm-6pm, Kilili Park
- Saturday, May 3, 7am-9am, Sabalu Market
- Saturday, May 3, Tinian Fiesta
- All Saturdays in May, 11am-1pm, Triple J Truck-Load Sale
- Shack Restaurant: During restaurant hours
- Saipan Chamber of Commerce: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
- Century Insurance lobby: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
- Tinian: See Don Farrell
- Rota: See Pete DelaCruz

By signing the petition, you are not voting yes or no on Article 12. You are, however, asking that Article 12 be put on the ballot for all voters to vote on. ***(PR)***

Hole-in-one sponsors join HANMI charity golf tourney

Bridge Capital, Century Tours, and Triple J Motors have made donations this month to lead the list of hole-in-one sponsors for the 13th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament slated for June 7, 2014.

Cash donated includes $20,000 from Bridge Capitol and another $20,000 from Century Tours. Triple J Motors donated a 2014 Mitsubishi Outlander.

"There are some fabulous prizes in store for this year's HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament, and we really hope to have someone walk away with our hole-in-one prizes. This month's donations are just the beginning of our prize list," said Tournament chair Steve Balakrishna. "As always, we are very grateful to our sponsors for helping to make this year's tournament a success."

This year's tournament will be held at Mariana Resort Country Club and will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash and numerous in-kind prizes await the winners, and proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to community charities.

Registration forms are now available. Early bird tournament fee is $105 for payments received by 5pm, June 5. The fee increases to $125 after the early bird deadline. The fee includes green fee and the evening awards banquet at Pacific Islands Club Saipan on tournament day. For an additional $25, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive. The tournament will start at 7am.

The tournament features six categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors and Ladies. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-6 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 7- 11 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 12-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap 18 and up. Senior Flight is for ages 55 and up.

HANMI

Tournament Committee member Das Krishnan, left, receives a $20,000 check from Century Tours as a hole-in-one prize for the 13th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Tournament Classic on June 7, 2014, at Mariana Country Club. Pictured from left are Krishnan, Century Tours officer-in-charge Rain Bao, and Century Tourism senior vice president of Business Development Seiji Sato.

HANMI

At right, Allen Perez, chief asset manager/office manager of Bridge Capital LLC, presents a $20,000 check to HANMI Golf Committee member Das Krishnan, left, as a hole-in-one prize for the 13th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Tournament Classic on June 7, 2014, at Mariana Country Club.

First place winners of all flights will receive $300, a trophy, and a hotel stay at one of the HANMI member hotels. Second place finishers will receive $200, a trophy, and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel, and third place winners will receive $100, a trophy, and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Winners for the Ladies Flight will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system. ***(HANMI)***

Census: Guam economy grew 24 pct. in 5 years

Guam's economy generated $7.7 billion in revenue in 2012, up 23.9 percent from $6.2 billion in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 Economic Census of Island Areas: Geographic Area Series for Guam.

The five-year economic census provides the most authoritative and comprehensive source of information about the entire U.S. economy, including U.S. territories like Guam, which is located in the western Pacific, and provides benchmark data for the gross domestic product. In 2012, Guam had 3,099 businesses with paid employees. These businesses employed 53,579 people and accounted for $1.3 billion in annual payroll. By comparison, in 2007 Guam had 3,143 employer businesses, with 52,394 employees and an annual payroll of $1.1 billion.

The 2012 Economic Census data include statistics for Guam and its 19 election districts for businesses with paid employees.

Other findings:

- In 2012, the retail trade sector in Guam accounted for $2.0 billion in sales, employed 8,879 people and paid $184 million in annual payroll. This compared with 2007, when the sector saw sales of $1.6 billion, employed 8,219 people and had an annual payroll of $150 million.
- The largest share of retail sales in Guam was found in food and beverage stores ($406 million in 2012, up from $327 million in 2007).
- In 2012, the accommodation and food services sector employed the most people (12,575). In 2007, this sector employed 11,477 people.
- Businesses in the Tamuning election district reported $4.6 billion in total sales—about 59 percent of Guam's total sales in 2012. Sales for this district totaled $3.6 billion in 2007.
- Guam had 203 businesses with 50 or more employees in 2012, representing 6.5 percent of all businesses. These businesses accounted for 55 percent ($4.3 billion) of total sales. In 2007, there were 193 businesses this size, accounting for $3.6 billion in total sales.

The statistics for Guam are available through the Census Bureau's American FactFinder, an online search tool that allows users to access, filter, manipulate and extract statistics. ***(U.S. Census)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy first birthday to the cutest munchkin in the world, KoJo Boy P. Onio! We love you always! God bless you and enjoy your special day. With love, from Niño, Nina and family.

Business

US economy likely to rebound from slow Q1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Expect a dreary report Wednesday when the government issues its first estimate of how fast the U.S. economy grew in the January-March quarter. Brutal weather kept consumers and businesses in hibernation for much of the winter and likely slowed growth to a scant annual pace of just 1.1 percent.

Yet thanks to a bounce-back in consumer spending, business investment and job growth, analysts foresee a strengthening economy through the rest of the year.

In fact, many say 2014 will be the year the recovery from the Great Recession finally achieves the robust growth that's needed to accelerate hiring and reduce still-high unemployment.

Most analysts think annual economic growth has rebounded to around 3 percent in the current April-June quarter and will remain roughly that strong through the second half of the year.

If that proves accurate, the economy will have produced the fastest annual expansion in the gross domestic product, the broadest gauge of the economy's health, in nine years. The last time growth was so strong was in 2005, when GDP grew 3.4 percent, two years before the nation fell into the worst recession since the 1930s.

A group of economists surveyed this month by The Associated Press said they expect unemployment to fall to 6.2 percent by the end of this year from 6.7 percent in March.

One reason for the optimism is that a drag on growth last year from higher taxes and deep federal spending cuts has been diminishing. A congressional budget truce has also lifted any imminent threat of another government shutdown. As a result, businesses may find it easier to commit to investments to modernize and expand production facilities and boost hiring.

State and local governments, which have benefited from a rebound in tax revenue, are hiring again as well.

A survey by the private Conference Board released Tuesday found that while U.S. consumer confidence dipped this month, many people foresee a strengthening economy in the months ahead.

Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors, said he expects job growth to average above 200,000 a month for the rest of the year—starting with the April jobs report, which will be released Friday.

"Those are the types of job gains which will generate incomes and consumer confidence going forward," Naroff said.

Naroff said solid job growth should lead consumers, who drive about 70 percent of the U.S. economy, to boost spending. He expects pent-up demand from purchases that were put off during the harsh winter to power a burst of growth in the April-June quarter. He thinks annual growth for the quarter will reach a vigorous 4.3 percent.

US sanctions raise concerns for foreign investors

LONDON (AP)—U.S. sanctions targeting the president of Russia's largest oil company could complicate the operations of Western oil companies with important investments in Russia, such as BP and Exxon.

The sanctions target only Igor Sechin, the president of Rosneft, and not the company itself. That means BP, Exxon and others will be able to continue to work with Rosneft, one of the world's biggest oil companies, to explore for and produce oil and gas.

For now.

Analysts are worried that the sanctions by the U.S. against Sechin are a prelude to tougher ones against Rosneft. That could force Western oil companies to abandon or suspend their partnerships and some very ambitious oil exploration plans.

"(Sechin) perhaps may not be able to go shopping in Paris in the foreseeable future, but that is not the same thing as penalizing the actual company," says Pavel Molchanov, an energy analyst at Raymond James. "That could be the next step, though."

BP, based in London, owns a 20 percent stake in Rosneft. ExxonMobil, based in Irving, Texas, has a broad agreement with Rosneft to explore for oil in the Russian arctic and across a wide region of western Siberia. Eni of Italy and Statoil of Norway also have deals with the Russian company.

Western investor-owned oil companies and Rosneft, which is controlled by the Kremlin, need each other. These companies are in a constant struggle to find more oil and gas to replace what they produce and sell every day. Russia is one of the few countries in the world that harbor vast reserves of untapped hydrocarbons.

But much of Russia's remaining oil and gas is expensive and difficult to reach, found either in the harsh climate of Arctic seas or trapped in tight rock onshore. Western companies have the capital and the technical expertise to help Rosneft produce that oil and gas—and generate cash that helps the Russian government fund its operations.

Adnan Vatansever, a senior lecturer at the Russia Institute at King's College London, estimates that half of Russia's federal revenue comes from oil and gas sales.

Sechin, like Putin a former KGB officer, has been president of Rosneft since the early 1990s. He is seen as the mastermind behind the 2003 takeover of the private oil company Yukos, whose founder, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, was jailed following disputes with the Kremlin.

Apple versus Samsung case goes to California jury

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—It was Apple versus Samsung but Google loomed large Tuesday during closing arguments at the monthlong federal trial involving claims of patent infringement exchanged by the world's two largest smartphone makers.

A lawyer for Apple accused Samsung of "slavishly" copying key features of its iPhone and iPad products and demanded $2.2 billion in damages.

An attorney for Samsung denied the allegations and argued that its Google-developed software differs from Apple's operating system.

In his closing argument, lawyer William Price referred to an email from Apple founder Steve Jobs indicating that he had ordered employees to wage a "holy war" against Google and its Android system, believing it was a rip-off of Apple's operating system.

Price said that was the sole reason Apple filed the lawsuit against Samsung.

"We don't think we owe Apple a nickel," added John Quinn, one of four Samsung lawyers involved in the company's closing argument.

Quinn also said Apple wants to monopolize the industry.

"They want to attack Google and Android by attacking the most successful Android maker," he said.

Apple lawyer Harold McElhinny told jurors that Samsung's "illegal strategy has been wildly successful" and insisted that Google had nothing to do with the case.

"Despite all the times Samsung mentioned it, you will not find a single question about Google in your jury form," McElhinny said. "Google is not a defendant in this case."

Google spokesman Matt Kallman declined comment on the proceedings.

The four men and four women on the jury began deliberating Tuesday but did not reach a verdict. They will resume Wednesday.

The case marks the latest legal fight between Samsung and Apple as each tries to dominate the $330 billion annual market for smartphones.

Samsung has captured about 31 percent of the smartphone market while Apple retains a 15 percent share.

A different jury in San Jose presiding over a previous trial regarding older technology ordered Samsung to pay Apple $930 million. Samsung has appealed that ruling.

Nation

Oklahoma inmate dies after execution is botched

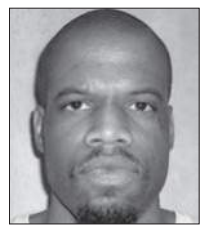
McALESTER, Okla. (AP)—A botched execution that used a new drug combination left an Oklahoma inmate writhing and clenching his teeth on the gurney Tuesday, leading prison officials to halt the proceedings before the inmate's eventual death from a heart attack.

Clayton Lockett, 38, was declared unconscious 10 minutes after the first of the state's new three-drug lethal injection combination was administered. Three minutes later, though, he began breathing heavily, writhing, clenching his teeth and straining to lift his head off the pillow.

The blinds were eventually lowered to prevent those in the viewing gallery from watching what was happening in the death chamber, and the state's top prison official eventually called a halt to the proceedings. Lockett died of a heart attack a short time later, the Department of Corrections said.

"It was a horrible thing to witness. This was totally botched," said Lockett's attorney, David Autry.

The apparent failure of the execution is likely to fuel more debate about the ability of states to administer lethal injections that meet the U.S. Constitution's requirement they be a neither cruel nor unusual punishment. That question has drawn renewed attention from defense attorneys and death penalty opponents in recent months, as several states scrambled to find new sources of execution drugs because drugmakers that oppose capital punishment—many based in Europe—have stopped selling to prisons and corrections departments.


Lockett

Several states have gone to court to shield the identities of the new sources of their execution drugs. Missouri and Texas, like Oklahoma, have both refused to reveal their sources, but both of those states have since successfully carried out executions with their new supplies.

Tuesday was the first time Oklahoma used the drug midazolam as the first element in its execution drug combination. Other states have used it before; Florida administers 500 milligrams of midazolam as part of its three-drug combination. Oklahoma used 100 milligrams of that drug.

"They should have anticipated possible problems with an untried execution protocol," Autry said. "Obviously the whole thing was gummed up and botched from beginning to end. Halting the execution obviously did Lockett no good."

Republican Gov. Mary Fallin ordered a 14-day stay of execution for an inmate who was scheduled to die two hours after Lockett, Charles Warner.

Employee opens fire at FedEx sorting center

KENNESAW, Ga. (AP)—A FedEx employee wearing ammunition draped across his chest "like Rambo" opened fire Tuesday at a package-sorting center outside Atlanta, wounding six people before committing suicide, police and witnesses said.

In addition to a shotgun, the gunman also had an undisclosed number of Molotov cocktails, but he did not use them in the attack, police said.

The suspect, identified by police as 19-year-old Geddy Kramer of Acworth, was found dead inside. He worked as a package handler at the sprawling facility, Cobb County police Sgt. Dana Pierce said.

Investigators have an idea of what his motive may have been, but they were not prepared to disclose it yet, Pierce said.

Three of the victims were critically wounded, though only one remained in critical condition by late afternoon. Police say three were in stable condition, and two others were treated and released.

Kramer first drove his car to a security shack outside the building and shot a guard there before heading inside, the news release said.

David Titus, a FedEx truck driver, said he was just coming to work around 6 a.m. when he saw a security guard shot in the abdomen. He said he heard more gunfire later from inside the building.

"It was chaos," Titus said. "Everyone was running, ducking and hiding, trying to get out of there."

FedEx clerk Liza Aiken said she was working when she heard something drop, looked to her left and saw the gunman.

"He had bullets strapped across his chest like Rambo" and held a knife, Aiken said at the entrance to a parking lot where employees had gathered after the attack. Before she could continue, a woman wearing a FedEx jacket told Aiken to stop talking and led her away.

A 28-year-old man who received surgery was in critical condition late Tuesday, while a 52-year-old woman who received surgery was upgraded to stable, police said. A 22-year-old man's condition was also upgraded to stable

Among the other wounded were a 42-year-old woman and two men, ages 38 and 19.

The gunman's father, Scott Kramer, released a statement expressing the family's condolences to the shooting victims.

"Our prayers are for their complete and speedy recovery. Our thoughts are also with all the workers at FedEx who were affected by Geddy's actions. We make no excuses for his actions and are shocked and devastated by them. There really are no adequate words at a time like this," Kramer said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hawaii: Teen stowaway's dad arrives in Honolulu

HONOLULU (AP)—The father of a 15-year-old boy who stowed away in a jetliner's wheel well has arrived on the islands from California, a Hawaii official said Tuesday. Spokeswoman Kayla Rosenfeld of the Hawaii Department of Human Services that Abdilahi Yusuf has arrived in Honolulu. Rosenfeld said the department's child welfare unit won't disclose any information on the release of Yahya Abdi because of privacy concerns and confidentiality. Rosenfeld had said previously that Abdi was in a Honolulu hospital after being transferred to state custody from the Maui airport, where he was questioned by FBI and airport officials following the April 20 flight. A spokeswoman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations in San Francisco who had been speaking for the family declined comment beyond reiterating a statement earlier this week that Yusuf wanted to see his son soon.

Woman admits tossing dog into traffic over dispute

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey woman has admitted killing her neighbor's small dog by throwing it into traffic during an argument over a parking space. The Star-Ledger of Newark reports that 27-year-old Haniyyah Barnes, of Newark, pleaded guilty Tuesday to breaking into her neighbor's home in August 2011, grabbing the 2-year-old Shih Tzu named Honey Bey and throwing her into oncoming traffic. The dog was struck by a vehicle and killed. She pleaded guilty to burglary, animal cruelty and theft charges and Essex County prosecutors will recommend that she receive a six-year state prison term when she's sentenced July 14. Barnes also would have to pay up to $2,600 in restitution and would be barred from owning, buying or living with animals for 10 years.

Asia

Fukushima residents unsure of return to no-go zone

TOMIOKA, Japan (AP)—Whenever Kazuhiro Onuki goes home, to his real home that is, the 66-year-old former librarian dons protective gear from head to toe and hangs a dosimeter around his neck.

Grass grows wild in the backyard. The ceiling leaks. Thieves have ransacked the shelves, leaving papers and clothing all over the floor so there is barely room to walk. Mouse dung is scattered like raisins. There is no running water or electricity.

Above all, radiation is everywhere.

It's difficult to imagine ever living again in Tomioka, a ghost town about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the former Fukushima Dai-chi nuclear plant. And yet more than three years after meltdowns at the plant forced this community of 16,000 people to flee, Onuki can't quite make the psychological break to start anew.

His family lived here for four generations. Every time he goes back, he is overcome by emotion. Especially during that brief time in the spring when the cherry blossoms bloom.

"They flower as though nothing has happened," he said. "They are weeping because all the people have left."

The Japanese government is pushing ahead with efforts to decontaminate and reopen as much of a 20-kilometer (12-mile) no-go zone around the plant as it can. Authorities declared a tiny corner of the zone safe for living as of April 1, and hope to lift evacuation orders in more areas in the coming months and years.

Former residents have mixed feelings. In their hearts, many want their old lives back. But distrust about the decontamination program runs deep. Will it really be safe? Others among the more than 100,000 displaced have established new lives elsewhere, in the years since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami sent three of Fukushima's reactors into meltdown.

If the evacuation order is lifted for their area, they will lose a monthly stipend of 100,000 yen ($1,000) they receive from Tokyo Electric Power Co., the owner of the Fukushima plant.

A survey last year found that 16 percent of Tomioka residents wanted to return, 40 percent had decided never to return, and 43 percent were undecided. Two-thirds said they were working before the disaster, but only one-third had jobs at the time of the survey, underlining the challenges to starting over.

Former resident Shigetoshi Suzuki, a friend of Onuki, is outraged the government would even ask such a question: Do you want to go back?

Of course, we all want to return, he said. People like him were effectively forced into retirement, the 65-year-old land surveyor said. If he hadn't evacuated to a Tokyo suburb with his wife, he would have continued working for his longtime clients.

Cambodia tentatively agrees to boatpeople plan

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A senior Cambodian official has said his country has tentatively agreed to accept asylum-seekers who had been seeking to settle in Australia in a potential deal criticized by refugee advocates.

Foreign Ministry Secretary of State Ouch Borith told reporters on Tuesday there was an agreement in principle to take the asylum-seekers, who are being held in camps on the Pacific island nation of Nauru under an agreement with Australia. However, he stressed that Cambodia had not yet approved the deal.

Australian officials had already announced that they were negotiating with Cambodia on the matter.

Australian Immigration Minister Scott Morrison's office said in a statement on Wednesday his government was continuing discussions with Phnom Penh and "welcomes the receptive and positive response from Cambodia that has been provided to date."

But Australian human rights lawyer David Manne described the potential deal as "profoundly disturbing."

"Cambodia is not suitable to resettle refugees, it's one of the world's poorest nations and has one of the worst human rights records in our region," Manne told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio on Wednesday.

Manne successfully went to Australia's High Court in 2011 to scuttle a previous Australian government's plan to send hundreds of asylum seekers to Malaysia. He declined to speculate on Wednesday on the prospects of a legal challenge to such a deal with Cambodia.

The boatpeople are mostly from the Middle East, South Asian countries and Myanmar, and the camps on Nauru are considered processing camps rather than settlements.

Australia essentially pays Nauru for hosting the asylum-seekers, and it is generally assumed a similar arrangement would be worked out with Cambodia, although for permanent resettlement.

Ouch Barith told reporters that Cambodia would act out of humanitarian concerns and that a deal did not hinge on how much money it might be paid.

Ouch Borith said Cambodia had established a committee to study the resettlement idea, which came at the initiative of Australia and whose details have not been made public.

There are more than 1,100 asylum seekers in Nauru. Human rights groups claim conditions at the Nauru camp are poor.

Australia also has an arrangement under which Papua New Guinea hosts a resettlement camp, and it also has come under criticism for allegedly poor conditions and human rights abuses.

ASIAN BRIEFS

36 Thai senators indicted over charter amendment

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's state anti-corruption body on Tuesday indicted 36 senators for alleged misconduct in attempting to amend the constitution to make the Senate fully elected, which a court ruled was unconstitutional last year. The National Anti-Corruption Commission found the senators had "misused their authority in violation of the constitution" and will forward the case to the Senate, commission Secretary-General Sansern Poljiak said. The 36 senators will be suspended from their jobs while the Senate decides whether to impeach them, although most will be replaced by recently elected lawmakers next month. The indictment is the latest in a series of legal challenges that caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her Pheu Thai party-led government have been battling since the lower house was dissolved in December.

14 militants, 1 PH marine dead in clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A battle between Philippine marines and Muslim militants, who launched a surprise attack to regain control of a captured jungle training encampment, has left 14 Abu Sayyaf fighters and one marine dead, officials said Wednesday. The heavy exchanges of rifle grenade and mortar fire erupted late Tuesday in a mountain area off southern Sulu province's Patikul town then eased into sporadic exchanges of sniper shots past midnight, with reinforcement marines beating back about 100 Abu Sayyaf attackers, military officials said. At least 14 militants were killed and several others were wounded in the three-hour fight, marine spokesman Capt. Ryan Lacuesta said, citing intelligence reports. One marine was killed and 19 others were wounded, eight of them seriously, he said.

World

Italy court: Knox struck mortal blow in killing

MILAN (AP)—The Italian appeals court that reinstated the conviction against Amanda Knox in her British roommate's 2007 murder said in a lengthy reasoning made public Tuesday that Knox herself delivered the fatal blow out of a desire to ``overpower and humiliate" the victim.

Presiding Judge Alessandro Nencini concluded in a 337-page document that the evidence ``inevitably leads to the upholding of the criminal responsibility" against Knox and her former Italian boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito for the murder of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in a hillside villa occupied by students in the university town of Perugia.

The judge said the nature of Kercher's wounds, which he said were inflicted by two knives, and the absence of defensive wounds indicated multiple aggressors were to blame, also including Rudy Hermann Guede, an Ivorian man convicted separately and serving a 16-year sentence.

AP

In this Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011 file photo, Amanda Knox talks to reporters, in Seattle.

Nencini presided over the Florence-based panel that reinstated the first trial guilty verdicts against Knox and Sollecito in January, handing Knox a 28 1/2 year sentence including the additional conviction on a slander charge for wrongly accusing a Congolese bar owner. Sollecito faces 25 years.

The release of the court's reasoning opens the verdict to an appeal back to the supreme Court of Cassation. If it confirms the convictions, a long extradition fight for Knox is expected.

The University of Washington student has been in the United States since 2011, when her earlier conviction was overturned. Knox, 26, has vowed to fight the reinstated conviction, saying she would "never go willingly" to Italy to face her judicial fate.

In a statement Tuesday, Knox said the reasoning "is not supported by any credible evidence or logic. There is simply no basis in the record or otherwise for this latest theory." She said she remained "hopeful the Italian courts will once again recognize my innocence."

Sollecito's lawyer, Giulia Bongiorno, tore apart the reasoning, saying "from the motive, to weapon, to the DNA, it is a string of errors."

Shadowy commander is face of insurgency in Ukraine

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine (AP)—When shadowy commander Igor Strelkov appeared before the cameras recently in green combat fatigues and a clipped mustache, he did more than reveal the face of the insurgency rocking eastern Ukraine. He strengthened the case that Russia is behind the turmoil.

The commander did not address Ukraine and European Union assertions that he is a Russian intelligence officer. But he told journalists that he and his men entered Ukraine from Crimea, which Russia annexed in March after an insurgency that Russian President Vladimir Putin now admits involved Russian troops. Strelkov's assertion that many of the insurgents are not locals undermines rebel claims that the insurgency is a spontaneous uprising, rather than a coordinated operation backed by outside forces.

"The militia is of course strongly sprinkled with volunteers from other regions," Strelkov said in a taped interview with Russian tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda. He estimated that a third of the fighters are not Ukrainian. He backtracked Tuesday in an interview with Russian TV, claiming 90 percent of the militiamen were Ukrainian.

The EU on Tuesday included Strelkov among 15 new people targeted by sanctions. EU documents identify him as a member of the Russian military intelligence agency GRU, as do Ukrainian authorities. The commander himself was cryptic about his origins in the weekend interview.

In Moscow, a flurry of drama surrounded Strelkov's emergence, as camera crews swarmed around an apartment building that Ukrainian TV reported to be home to his mother. Neighbors told The Associated Press that a "fancy black car" had turned up Tuesday morning to whisk the woman away.

Equally murky are the origins of Strelkov's insurgents, their operations and their weapons. They have proven themselves to be ruthless and effective, running their campaign with unerring foreknowledge of Ukrainian security operations.

Attacks in 2 Syrian cities kill at least 54

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—A massive double car bombing and a mortar strike targeted pro-government neighborhoods Tuesday in two of Syria's largest cities, killing at least 54 people a day after President Bashar Assad declared his candidacy for re-election.

The attacks in Damascus and Homs heightened fears of an escalation ahead of the contentious June 3 vote and showed that despite a series of battlefield setbacks, the rebels remain capable of hitting the government and its core of support.

Now in its fourth year, Syria's conflict has left the country a chaotic tableau of localized battles whose front lines shift back and forth, but have little impact on the wider war. The map of control has remained largely unaltered: Assad holds sway in Damascus and the corridor that runs up to the Mediterranean coast, while the rebels control most of the north along the Turkish border and the Kurdish minority controls a corner in the northeast.

But the rebels are feeling squeezed in the capital, Damascus, and in Homs, Syria's third-largest city and an opposition stronghold since the beginning of the uprising against Assad. The government has taken a two-pronged approach to crushing resistance in both areas: suffocating blockades that eventually force cease-fires and a fierce offensive along the Lebanese frontier that has severely restricted the flow of weapons and fighters along cross-border supply lines.

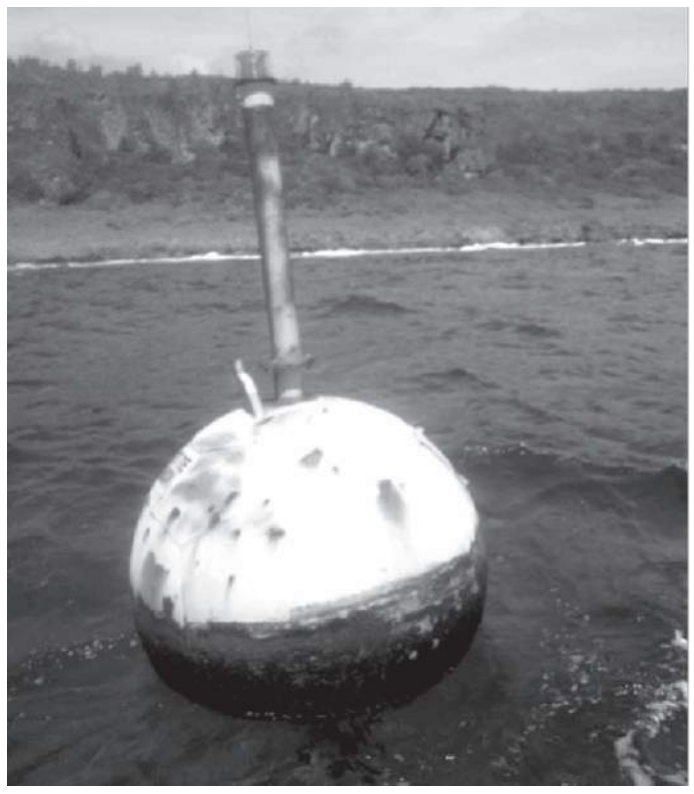
In Homs, the rebels are growing desperate as government forces ramp up their assault on the last remaining pockets of opposition in the Old City. Among the hundreds of fighters still holding out in besieged districts, some talk of surrender while others have lashed out at the government with suicide car bombings in pro-Assad districts.

Environment

DFW retrieves fish aggregating device that came from Maui

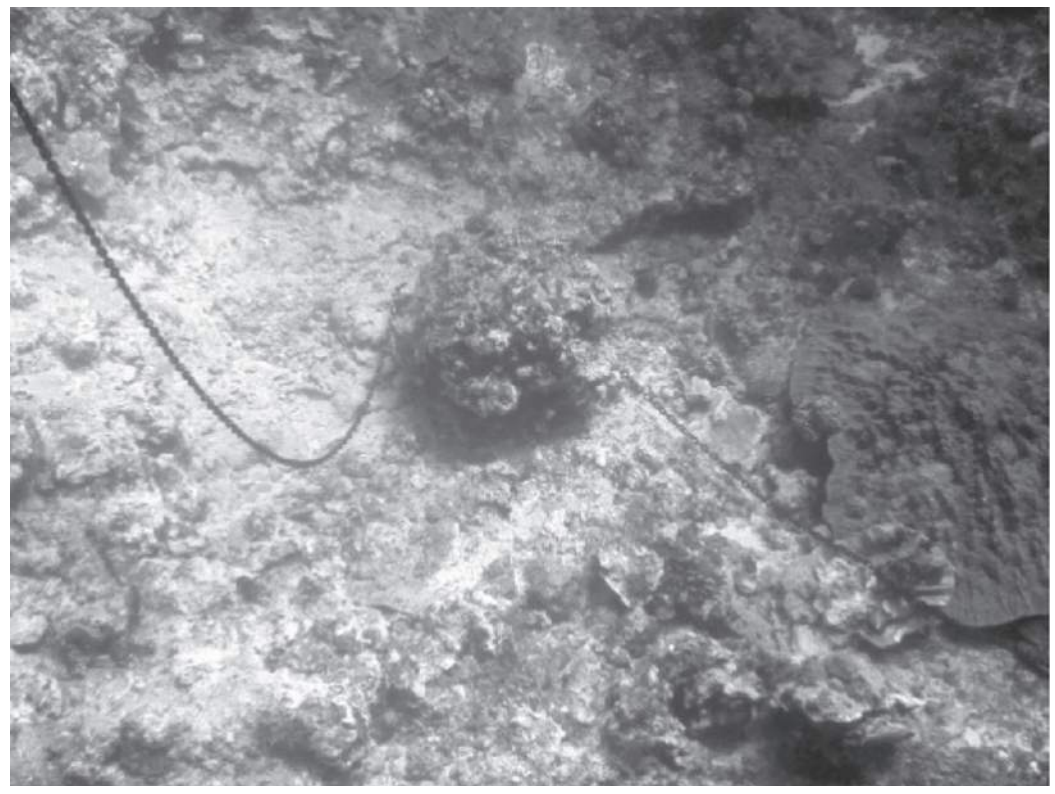
On April 7, 2014, the NOAA Oceanography Team discovered a fish aggregating device drifting along the northeastern coast of Rota. Initially the FAD was believed to belong to the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Research Section. However, after further communication with respective FAD programs from the Pacific region, it was determined that the device was originally from Maui, and is believed to have been adrift for a number of years.

Upon being notified, DLNR-DFW acted with urgency to dispatch five fisheries staff for the extraction of the device on Rota. During their assessment, the team discovered that the 100-foot chain was lodged in a crevice that consisted mainly of limestone and coral. In order to avoid damaging coral and potential drifting, expeditious efforts were taken by the DFW staff to remove the chain.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A fish aggregating device is found drifting along the northeastern coast of Rota.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The fish aggregating device's chain is found lodged in a crevice that consisted mainly of limestone and coral.

With the support of the Sport Fish restoration program manager, Flinn Curren, and Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios, the successful recovery of the FAD was made. As a response to the extrication efforts taken on by the DFW Fisheries Research staff and other members of the extraction team, acting director Manuel Pangelinan expressed his gratitude for the immediate undertaking of this responsibility.

"I am happy that the FAD retrieval process was a success, and that the extrication team responded in a timely manner to ensure the continued protection of coral that will allow them to thrive," said Pangelinan. "Furthermore, I am thankful to Secretary Arnold Palacios for his continued support of the DFW Fisheries staff and their FAD program."

FADs are beneficial tools to both fishermen and fish. They provide complex habitat for bait fishes, and a feeding ground for pelagic fishes such as Skipjack Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Wahoo, and Mahimahi. FADs benefit fishermen by maintaining a set location where pelagic fishes may be caught, minimizing the time spent searching for schools of fish or flocks of birds, reducing fuel consumption and overall cost when fishing, and by obtaining information on fish and FAD interactions. FADs also reduce fishing pressure on reef fishes.

The DFW-FRS has deployed six FADs throughout the CNMI. Of the six, five are deployed on Saipan and one is deployed on Tinian. In addition, DFW-FRS will be setting up two FADs on Rota and two more on Tinian this year. ***(DFW)***

Creating a rain garden

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Rain is a natural resource for your yard.

Think of it as pennies from heaven—free moisture that nourishes your plants and nixes high water bills.

Ask a master gardener how best to access that rich resource and you are likely to hear "rain garden."

A rain garden is also a fuss-free way to help clean up our environment.

When it rains, water falls on roofs, driveways, lawns, between houses, over parking lots and through storm drains. As stormwater travels over these surfaces, it collects pollutants, pesticides, herbicides, sediments and pet wastes. In undisturbed landscapes, such as woods and open field, there is very little stormwater runoff because rainwater filters through soil or evaporates into the atmosphere.

"Seventy percent of pollutants in our streams, rivers and lakes are carried there by stormwater," says Carol Fyrer, a master gardener in Williamsburg, Va. She and other local master gardeners are using their skills to help homeowners develop rain gardens in places where erosion, water conservation and pollution control are concerns.

"Most people do not know that about half of the pollutants are caused by what we do in our gardens and yards.

"Planting a rain garden might seem like a small part of stormwater management, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off you roof, you might be very surprised. Water running off a house roof can be channeled into a rain garden, rather than heading into the street to a storm drain carrying pollutants with it."

What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is an attractive landscape feature designed to capture, filter and infiltrate stormwater back into the soil—rather than rain running off your property or causing erosion, according to Carol.

"They are built as shallow depressions—basins—in the ground that are filled with good draining soil mix and beautiful plants that can tolerate wet soil and periods of drought," she says.

As water collects in the rain garden, it is filtered and slowly absorbed by soil and plants. Soil and plant roots of the trees, shrubs and perennials planted in the rain garden filter pollutants, pesticides and herbicides from the rainwater. Well-designed rain gardens will hold water for no longer than 24-48 hours.

Why are rain gardens important?

Rain gardens have several advantages, according to Darl Fletcher, assistant horticulture curator at the Virginia Living Museum—www.thevlm.org—in Newport News, Va. The museum's rain garden is located in front of the green roof of the Goodson Living Green House, and is planted with witch hazel, sweet pepperbush, strawberry bush, Virginia sweetspire and copper iris—native species that will be sold at its April plant

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS/MCT

A bird bath and feeders accent a rain garden planted with soft green rush, dwarf yaupon hollies, blue flag iris, cranesbill geranium, beardtongue, vernonia, ajuga and purple dome asters.

"Rain gardens help reduce and filter stormwater runoff, which reduces stormwater pollution as well as increases groundwater replenishment," says Fletcher.

"They provide habitat for wildlife, are attractive, are low maintenance—do not require mowing, fertilization or watering once established—and can increase property values with their use of creative landscape design."

Where to build a rain garden?

A rain garden should be at least 10 feet from a house so water soaking into the soil does not seep into the foundation. Do not place the rain garden directly over a septic system, or underground utilities.

A wet area of your land may not be a good spot since the infiltration is poor there. An area closer to the runoff source—roof or driveway—to intercept the water is a better choice, according to Carol.

If your water table is high, less than 2 feet deep from the surface, a rain garden will not work since infiltration is an issue, she adds.

Locate a rain garden in sun or partial sun, not directly under a big tree.

Placing a rain garden in a flatter part of a yard makes digging much easier.

A slope of less than 12 percent grade work is best since the base of the rain garden must be level, and less incline requires less filling in of the downward side of a slope.

RAIN GARDEN TIPS

■ Look at your land and home, and note where rain runs off during a rainstorm.

■ Do a soil test to determine the make-up of your soil

■ Do an infiltration test at the rain garden site to see how quickly water seeps into soil.

■ To determine size of your rain garden, calculate how much rain flows to the area for your rain garden based on size of impervious surfaces—roof, driveway, sidewalk—and pervious surfaces, such as lawn and other plant beds. Formulas are available in homeowner guides online, such as the Virginia Department of Forestry booklet—www.dof.virginia.gov/mgt/riparian/rain-gardens.htm.

■ Before you dig, lay out a water hose to the dimension and shape desired of your rain garden to get a sense of what it will look like—and adjust the shape until it is pleasing to you.

■ Research native plants that might work for you, and locate nurseries where they are available.

Learn more about rain gardens through the Rain Garden Network at www.raingardennetwork.com.

Life & Style

Hollywood stars get little love at Tony nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a brutal Tuesday morning for some A-list stars on Broadway.

Snubbed for Tony Award nominations were Denzel Washington, James Franco, Zachary Quinto, Michelle Williams, Orlando Bloom, Ethan Hawke, Zach Braff, Billy Crudup, Rachel Weisz and Daniel Craig. Daniel Radcliffe struck out for his third consecutive Broadway show.

Neil Patrick Harris, who won a nomination for his brilliant performance in the punk-rock show "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," said he was surprised by the final list. But he's been a Tony host and knows from experience the process is often rough.

"Having been the host in previous years, it's always interesting and surprising," he said. "It's a small group of people that nominate and you're never quite sure what they're responding to. That being said, it does get to showcase the talents of people who often don't get their moment in the spotlight."

One of the winners on Tuesday was unconventional musicals: "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," a romp with a leading man killed eight times, led the field with 10 nods. It was followed by "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," a rock concert by a transgender German, with eight, and "After Midnight," a candy sampler of stunning dance and singing acts, with seven.

When the dust settled, the musicals up for the Tony's biggest prize are: "After Midnight," "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," "Aladdin," and "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical." Not one of the shows has a big movie star.

AP

This file image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows Neil Patrick Harris in a scene from "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," at the Belasco Theatre in New York.

"It's going to be a really exciting Tony race to watch," said Scott Sanders, who produced "After Midnight," which celebrates Duke Ellington's years at the Cotton Club nightclub. (The nomination happened to come on Ellington's birthday.) "The four shows could not be more different in many ways."

Another big winner was the old master himself—Shakespeare. The Mark Rylance-led productions of "Richard III" and "Twelfth Night" from London together scooped up eight nominations.

Rylance, who played "Richard III," will compete in the best leading actor in a play category with Samuel Barnett, also in "Twelfth Night," Bryan Cranston in "All The Way," Chris O'Dowd in "Of Mice and Men" and Tony Shalhoub in "Act One." Rylance also snagged a supporting nomination playing a woman in "Twelfth Night."

He said he didn't care which role actually won. "My preference is being nominated," he said, laughing. "I find in my experience winning is rather an isolating, lonely experience."

The Shakespeare productions—performed by an all-male cast and seeking to replicate how the plays were produced in the Bard's day—also extended the trend on Broadway toward embracing drag.

Last year, "Kinky Boots" and "Matilda the Musical" featured leading men dressed as women. This year has "Casa Valentina," Harvey Fierstein's play about straight cross-dressers, and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," starring Neil Patrick Harris in a skirt. Even "Gentleman's Guide" features Jefferson Mays playing both genders.

While not all Hollywood stars came away empty-handed—Cranston, as expected, won a nod for playing Lyndon Johnson in "All the Way"—the lack of nominations for Broadway veterans from the film world such as Washington, Radcliffe, Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen, or first-timers, like Franco and Williams, was striking.

'Star Wars: Episode VII' cast unveiled

NEW YORK (AP)—"Star Wars: Episode VII" finally has its stars. May the Force be with them.

After months of carefully guarded secrecy and endless Internet speculation, the cast of the latest incarnation of the space epic was unveiled Tuesday on the official "Star Wars" website by Lucasfilm and the Walt Disney Co.

Starring in J.J. Abrams' new "Star Wars" are: John Boyega, Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Max von Sydow, Andy Serkis and Domhnall Gleeson.

Driver

The companies declined to name the characters each will play, though Driver, the breakout star of HBO's "Girls," is widely expected to be playing the film's feature villain.

They join returning "Star Wars" veterans Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher. Peter Mayhew is also back as Chewbacca and Kenny Baker will reprise RD-D2.

"It is both thrilling and surreal to watch the beloved original cast and these brilliant new performers come together to bring this world to life, once again," director and co-writer Abrams said in a statement. "We start shooting in a couple of weeks, and everyone is doing their best to make the fans proud."

Disney will release "Star Wars: Episode VII," which will be set 30 years after 1983's "Return of the Jedi," in December 2015. Disney acquired Lucasfilm in 2012, and immediately put a new "Star Wars" trilogy into development.

The "Episode VII" cast is a mix of fresh faces, up-and-comers and established names.

The 22-year-old British actor Boyega is best known for the 2011 science fiction monster movie "Attack the Block." Ridley, also a young British actor, is largely unknown. She has appeared in several British TV series, including "Mr. Selfridge."

Like Driver, Isaac is a recent breakout star, following his acclaimed performance in the Coen brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis."

The 30-year-old Irish actor Gleeson has appeared in numerous films, including 2012's "Anna Karenina" and both parts of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." He's acted frequently on stage, earning a Tony nomination in 2006 for his performance in "The Lieutenant of Inishmore."

The British actor Serkis is famous for his digital shape-shifting, playing Gollum in the "Lord of the Rings" films and the titular gorilla in "King Kong." It's widely speculated that he'll again trade on his specialty of using performance capture to craft a digital character.

Von Sydow, the 85-year-old Swedish legend of "The Exorcist" and "The Seventh Seal," will presumably add the kind of gravitas Alec Guinness brought to the 1977 original.

Scoring "Episode VII" will be John Williams, who created the original trilogy's famous themes.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending April 28, 2014:

TOP SONGS

1. Happy (From "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
2. All of Me, John Legend
3. Talk Dirty (feat. 2 Chainz), Jason Derulo
4. Turn Down For What, DJ Snake, Lil Jon
5. Let It Go, Idina Menzel
6. Fancy (feat. Charli XCX), Iggy Azalea
7. Dark Horse (feat. Juicy J), Katy Perry
8. Play It Again, Luke Bryan
9. Problem (feat. Iggy Azalea), Ariana Grande
10. Not a Bad Thing, Justin Timberlake

TOP ALBUMS

1. The New Classic, Iggy Azalea
2. Honest, Future
3. Nashville: On the Record (Live), Nashville Cast
4. Frozen, Various Artists
5. You Make Me Brave (Live), Bethel Music
6. From Here To Now To You Live - EP, Jack Johnson
7. Ghost Stories, Coldplay
8. Crash My Party, Luke Bryan
9. Testimony, August Alsina
10. Pure Heroine, Lorde

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending April 28, 2014:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. A Dark Room, Amirali Rajan
2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
3. Goat Rampage, Swift Apps
4. Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
5. Afterlight, Simon Filip
6. ThemeLab, Judi Peters
7. Sleep Cycle alarm clock, Northcube AB
8. The Survival Games : Mini Game..., wang wei
9. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
10. The Amazing Spider-Man 2, Gameloft

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Piano Tiles, HU WEN ZENG
2. 2048 - The Game, Ketchapp
3. Swamp AttackOut, Fit 7 Ltd.
4. Beats Music, Beats Music, LLC.
5. FarmVille 2: Country Escape, Zynga Inc.
6. Snapchat, Snapchat, Inc.
7. UberFacts, Uber Unlimited LLC
8. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
9. Don't step the white tile, Ayumu Kinoshita
10. YouTube, Google, Inc

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. The Amazing Spider-Man , Gameloft
3. Leo's Fortune, 1337 & Senri LLC
4. The Survival Games : Mini Game..., wang wei
5. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
6. SpongeBob Moves In, Nickelodeon
7. Blek, Denis Mikan
8. Goat Rampage, Swift Apps
9. Wallykazam! Letter and Word Ma..., Nickelodeon
10. Hitman GO, SQUARE ENIX INC

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. FarmVille 2: Country Escape, Zynga Inc.
2. Microsoft Word for iPad, Microsoft Corporation
3. 2048 - The Game, Ketchapp
4. Hearthstone: Heroes of Warcraft, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.
5. Piano Tiles, HU WEN ZENG
6. Swamp Attack, Out Fit 7 Ltd.
7. Sonic & All-Stars Racing Trans..., SEGA
8. Hair Salon for Cartoon, Lang Bing
9. Farm Heroes, Saga King.com Limited
10. Microsoft Excel for iPad, Microsoft Corporation

The top 20 books on Apple's iBooks for week ending April 28, 2014:

TOP PAID BOOKS

1. The Target by David Baldacci (Grand Central Publishing)
2. The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (Penguin Group US)
3. Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo & Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson)
4. Divergent by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
5. Insurgent by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
6. Allegiant by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
7. The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (Little, Brown and Company)
8. The Collector by Nora Roberts (Penguin Group US)
9. NYPD Red 2 by James Patterson & Marshall Karp (Little, Brown and Company)
10. Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn (Crown Publishing Group)
11. Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline (William Morrow Paperbacks)
12. Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt by Michael Lewis (W. W. Norton & Company)
13. Taming Alex by Jill Sanders (Jill Sanders)
14. Pride Over Pity by Kailyn Lowry (Post Hill Press)
15. Missing You by Harlan Coben (Penguin Group US)
16. The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty (Penguin Group US)
17. Carnal Curiosity by Stuart Woods by Penguin Group US)
18. Everybody's Got Something by Robin Roberts & Veronica Chambers (Grand Central Publishing)
19. A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin (Random House Publishing Group)
20. Fifty Shades of Grey by E L James (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)

Gwen Stefani to coach season 7 of 'The Voice'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC says Gwen Stefani will be a coach on "The Voice" next season.

The network said Tuesday that Stefani will join Adam Levine, Blake Shelton and another previously announced new coach, Pharrell Williams, on the singing contest's seventh edition.

The two newcomers will drop by "The Voice" on May 5.

NBC says Stefani, the frontwoman for rock band No Doubt and a solo performer, will sing her hit "Hollaback Girl," while Williams is set to perform his new single, "Come Get It Bae."

The network also says coach Christina Aguilera will return for season eight.

The current season's panel includes Levine, Shelton, Shakira and Usher.

In this Saturday, April 26, 2014 file photo, Gwen Stefani attends the one year anniversary celebration of Hakkasan Las Vegas, in Las Vegas. NBC announced on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, that Stefani will be a coach on "The Voice" next season. AP

'SlotZilla' zip line opens in downtown Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A zip line that swoops riders past the vintage casinos of downtown Las Vegas and under the giant video canopy of the Fremont Street Experience is now open for business.

The lower zip lines on the $12 million SlotZilla attraction opened to the public Sunday after 14 months of construction, while a set of higher lines is expected to open a little later this spring.

"People are really enjoying it," said Fremont Street Experience spokesman Thomas Bruny, who pointed out more typical zip lines take tourists over forests and lakes. "This one is unique because nowhere else are you flying over people and under the largest video canopy in the world."

The high-flying rides start from a 12-story tower designed to look like a giant slot machine. Riders can now take the 77-foot-high zip lines, in which visitors are harnessed in a sitting position and glide 850 lateral feet to a platform near The D and 4 Queens casinos.

A "zoom line" opening later this spring launches riders from 114 feet up and sends them soaring in a horizontal "Superman" position 1,700 feet across the entire pedestrian mall. That attraction uses a power boost to ensure riders make it the full distance of the wire.

Zip line rides cost $20, while zoom line rides will cost $30.

The attraction is an expansion of a much smaller, temporary zip line that has for two years scooted families, newlyweds and Elvis impersonators beneath a long metal canopy that displays an hourly light show.

That ride was intended to be a 30-day novelty, but it proved such a crowd pleaser the business community began working to make it permanent.

Microsoft to sell Xbox One console in China

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft says it will start selling its Xbox One video game console in China in September.

Microsoft Corp. says it is launching the system through a partnership with BesTV New Media Co., a subsidiary of Shanghai Media Group. Microsoft says the system will be available throughout China.

Video game consoles are technically banned in the country, but Microsoft was able to get around this by working with BesTV, which is part owned by the Chinese government. Microsoft and BesTV have a joint video game venture called E-Home Entertainment. It was the first company registered in China's Shanghai free-trade zone.

Microsoft says the Xbox launch is a "significant milestone" for the company and the industry.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

American Idol' to help reopen Washington Monument

WASHINGTON (AP)—American singer Candice Glover from "American Idol" television show will help reopen the Washington Monument, which has been closed since a 2011 earthquake. Organizers say Glover will join with the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the U.S. Navy Band and the boy and girl choristers of the Washington National Cathedral Choir for the May 12 re-opening ceremony. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis and philanthropist David Rubenstein will help celebrate. Rubenstein donated $7.5 million to cover half the restoration cost. The 130-year-old memorial has been closed since it was damaged by a 5.8-magnitude earthquake in August 2011. Workers have repaired more than 150 cracks in the 555-foot obelisk. Normally the monument draws about 700,000 visitors a year.

Stage star Valisia LeKae fights back from cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway is celebrating the Tony Awards nominations, but it has another reason to cheer: One of its own is cancer-free. Valisia LeKae, who earned a Tony nomination playing Diana Ross in the hit show "Motown the Musical," took to Twitter on Tuesday to say that she has beaten ovarian cancer. She had been diagnosed late last year and underwent several rounds of chemotherapy. She confirmed the good news later Tuesday. LeKae was stunned by the diagnosis after undergoing surgery to remove what was believed to be a benign ovarian cyst in November. Ovarian cancer is more common among white, post-menopausal women. LeKae, who is black, was diagnosed at age 34 and says she has no family history of the disease.

Reports: Scorpions drummer jailed in Dubai

AP

In this Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, file photo, James Kottak, drummer of the German rock band Scorpions, gestures during the band's farewell tour in La Paz, Bolivia.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Newspapers in the United Arab Emirates are reporting that the American drummer for the rock band Scorpions has been sentenced to one month in jail after being convicted of offensive behavior in Dubai.

The government-backed National newspaper reported Tuesday that James Kottak was convicted of insulting Islam, raising his middle finger and being under the influence of alcohol while in transit at Dubai airport.

The Gulf News daily says he was arrested April 3 en route from Russia to Bahrain, where the German band was scheduled to perform at a Formula One race. Kottak was a no-show at the April 5 concert.

The newspapers say Kottak admitted to drinking but denied other charges.

The Scorpions' manager didn't respond to requests for comment. Kottak's local lawyer couldn't immediately be reached.

Couples find common ground on different spiritual paths

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing to support "Feeling Coerced in San Diego" (Feb. 14), who is uncomfortable attending church with her husband. I understand her feelings because I, too, am an atheist in a relationship with a religious man.

There is another option besides abstaining from church or attending only on major holidays, and that would be for "Coerced" and her husband to try a different church. One religion that embraces atheist church members is Unitarian Universalism.

UU congregations are often made up of people from different backgrounds—Christian, Jewish, atheist and more. The focus of the sermons is on living a good life, treating other people and our planet with respect, and following one's own path to spiritual enlightenment. It's likely that "Coerced" and her husband could both feel at home in such a congregation.

CHELSEA IN WICHITA

DEAR CHELSEA: Thank you for your suggestion—it's one that was echoed by many other readers. I have mentioned the Unitarian Universalist denomination and its website (uua.org) before in my column. Readers' comments were enlightening:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, am in a "mixed marriage." I'm religious and my husband is an atheist. We agree to disagree on the matter. Religion (or lack of it) is a very personal thing, and however we feel, we owe each other respect for our different views.

"Coerced" is great for trying to accommodate her husband, but now that they see it didn't work, he should stop pressuring her. She can refrain from going to services, but should consider attending the church's social events. This solution worked well for us. My husband and my church friends get along well.

Of course, this depends on the nature of the church. Mine happens to be one of the more progressive. It's worth a try.

KATHRYN IN OTTAWA, CANADA

DEAR ABBY: I knew my husband was atheist when we married. Our spiritual journeys are different, and we're not going to change each other.

We agreed I would raise our kids Catholic. I never expect him to be at church with us on Sundays, but on important sacraments (baptism, first communion, confirmation), he is there with the whole family because he realizes these events are important for his kids and me. He has become friendly with some of my clergy and fellow congregants, who accept him for the wonderful person he is.

Maybe in the future "Coerced" could attend an event like a church spaghetti dinner, something outside of services, and get to know the people her husband spends time with on Sunday. And he could spend a weekend doing a silent hiking retreat with his wife and her friends.

Respecting each other's spiritual path is a first step toward appreciating each other's differences and growing together.

BLESSED IN OREGON

DEAR ABBY: "Coerced" is lucky to have a man who attends church and wants her to go, too. She might consider helping in the nursery. That way, she's there with him but doesn't have to listen to the message. Churches are always looking for help so parents can actually attend the service.

LAURA IN CONNECTICUT

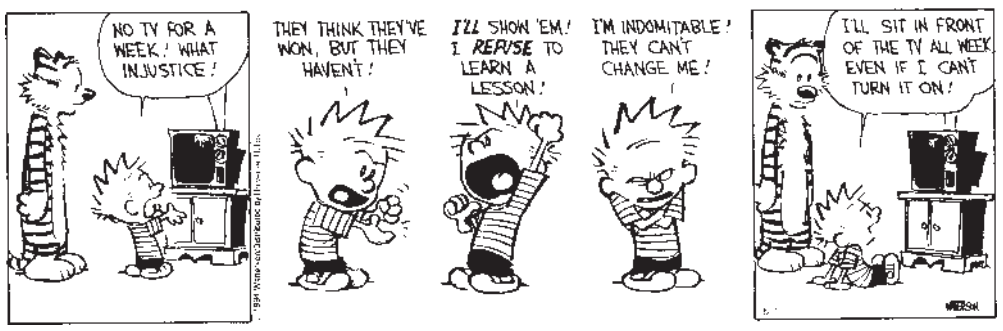
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

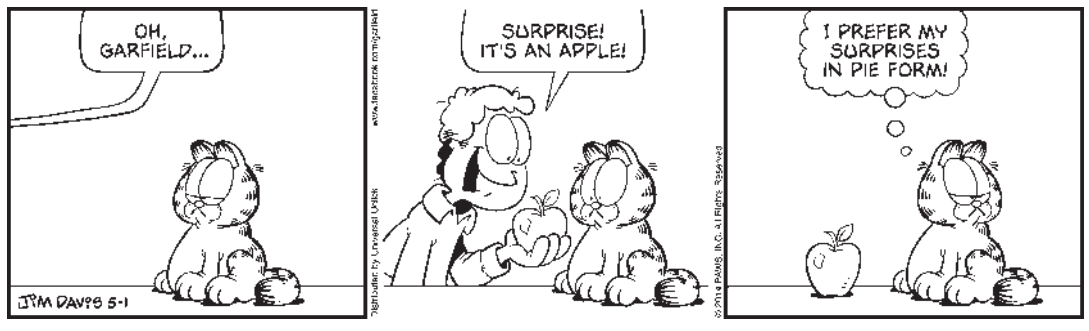
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


NO TV FOR A WEEK! WHAT INJUSTICE!
THEY THINK THEY'VE WON, BUT THEY HAVEN'T!
I'LL SHOW 'EM! I REFUSE TO LEARN A LESSON!
I'M INDOMITABLE! THEY CAN'T CHANGE ME!
I'LL SIT IN FRONT OF THE TV ALL WEEK EVEN IF I CAN'T TURN IT ON!

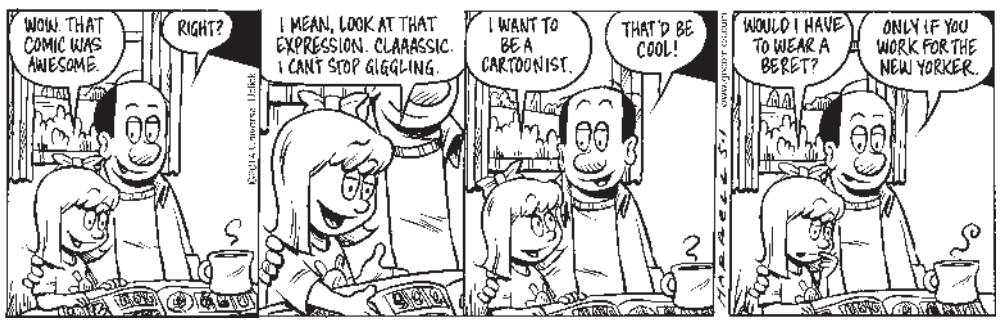
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW. THAT COMIC WAS AWESOME.
RIGHT?
I MEAN, LOOK AT THAT EXPRESSION. CLAAASSIC. I CAN'T STOP GIGGLING.
I WANT TO BE A CARTOONIST.
THAT'D BE COOL!
WOULD I HAVE TO WEAR A BERET?
ONLY IF YOU WORK FOR THE NEW YORKER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Grouch
5 Energy
8 Unwanted email
12 Entice
13 Rowing need
14 "There!"
15 First victim
16 Acapulco gold
17 Bandleader Vallee
18 Riches
20 Scallopini meat
22 1936 Olympics star
26 Big name in late-night talk
29 "— Poetica"
30 Afternoon social
31 Smell
32 Bud Selig's org.
33 Remain
34 Diarist Anaïs
35 Sweet potato's kin
36 Airs for pairs
37 Legendary bank robber
40 Facility
41 Get
45 Flirtatious greeting
47 Comical Caesar
49 Commedia dell' —
50 Church section
51 Pirouette pivot
52 "— a Kick Out of You"
53 Accomplishes
54 "Tasty!"
55 Artesian appellations

DOWN
1 Hammer feature
2 Cartoonist Goldberg
3 Vicinity
4 Vacuum container
5 Cries of disdain
6 Listener
7 Old saw
8 Soda shop item
9 Actress Goddard
10 Toss in
11 Spring period
19 Commandment count
21 Dawn goddess
23 Hayek who played Frida
24 Spruced up
25 Puts into words
26 Pt. of speech
27 Garfield's pal
28 Poppycock
32 Grandeur
33 Keep up
35 "Of course"
36 Society newcomer
38 Benefits
39 Internet connector
42 Golden Fleece carrier
43 Thing
44 Profits
45 Bankroll
46 Wall St. debut
48 Debtor's letters

Solution time: 25 mins.

		A	W	L			D	A	M			
	A	L	A	I			L	O	L	A	S	
U	S	I	N	G		E	N	I	G	M	A	
T	H	E	T	H	R	E	E	B	E	A	R	S
A	Y	N		T	A	K	E	I		R	I	O
			P	E	G	S			I	M	A	X
	M	A	I	N	E		M	A	C	Y	S	
J	I	N	X			B	A	B	Y			
F	G	G		V	O	I	T	S		I	O	A
T	H	E	F	I	V	E	S	A	T	I	N	S
	T	R	A	C	E	S		L	O	V	E	S
		S	T	A	R	S		O	R	E	S	
			A	R	T			M	E	D		

Yesterday's answer 5-1

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50					51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 45; Tim McGraw, 47; Joanna Lumley, 68; Judy Collins, 75

Happy Birthday: Step outside your comfort zone and take care of any matters that could turn into a foreseeable problem as the year progresses. Leave nothing to chance and be open to suggestions. Diversification will be your ticket to success and the way you will win the support of your friends, relatives and colleagues. Don't allow self-deception to lead to emotional costs. Your numbers are 5, 17, 23, 25, 31, 33, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Plan activities and enjoy time spent with someone who moves you emotionally, mentally and physically. Interaction with someone special will lead to a change in lifestyle. Push for what you want by using your skills, talents and expertise. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take the edge off a tense situation by having an open, heart-to-heart discussion. You will come to the realization that there is more that you can do to make your life better. Don't let anyone use emotional manipulation to lead you astray. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will feel emotionally drained, confined or restricted. Take the edge off by following a creative pursuit. Keep your distance from anyone trying to coax you into doing something you don't want to do. Follow your heart and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Withhold personal information. Protect what you feel and plan to do until you are ready to make your move. Love is on the rise and making romantic plans will improve your mood as well as please someone you think is special. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can make a difference. Check out what's going on in your community or drop in on someone you know who is going through a rough period. Your support and suggestions will make you feel good and help you develop a lifelong ally. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll face conflicting feelings and a lack of understanding from someone to whom you are emotionally tied. Don't back down; say what's on your mind. Communication will make a difference to the outcome of a situation you face. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put heart and soul into what you do and say. Love and romance are in the stars and making sure you do something nice for someone special will help cement your relationship. Follow your heart and express your feelings. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You will attract attention. Do something that will make you feel good about who you are or the way you look. Pampering or sharing time with someone who looks up to you will give you the confidence to move forward with your plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make alterations to the way you live. Protect your health; don't take unnecessary physical risks. Not everyone you deal with will feel the same way you do. Guard your plans from someone who is likely to meddle. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick close to home and get all the little things done that will make you feel good about your surroundings and life in general. You can please someone you love by being more attentive. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Plan to try something new that will add to your enjoyment and entertainment. Taking time to adjust a financial investment will pay off. Home improvements will help bolster your mood and your ability to develop a moneymaking idea you have been mulling over. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful what you say or reveal to others about your financial, legal or medical situation. An emotional encounter will catch you off guard and can cost you a friendship if deception is detected. Proceed with caution. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are smart, astute and practical. You are strong, straightforward and loving.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		2		7		8		3
				4				
			3		5			
		7				2		
1	6			9			4	5
		5				9		
			7		1			
				2				
7		9		5		4		8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	9	3	8	1	7	2	6
8	3	2	9	7	6	4	1	5
1	6	7	5	2	4	8	9	3
4	9	5	1	6	3	2	7	8
6	7	1	8	4	2	5	3	9
2	8	3	7	5	9	6	4	1
7	1	4	6	3	8	9	5	2
3	5	8	2	9	7	1	6	4
9	2	6	4	1	5	3	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE (1928-2014) **Solution: 8 letters**

S	E	H	E	I	D	I	C	(E)	(E)	(W)	P	A	U	S
I	N	H	O	J	R	I	C	H	I	O	R	M	S	T
N	A	R	U	G	I	R	L	N	P	E	L	E	H	A
G	J	A	T	C	N	Y	K	I	D	N	C	L	I	N
E	M	T	A	H	K	I	L	U	A	N	T	I	P	D
R	I	S	L	A	E	L	R	S	I	A	G	A	R	U
O	S	E	L	R	O	T	U	R	S	L	O	R	I	P
D	S	Y	N	L	R	S	P	T	R	E	B	E	L	Y
A	M	E	I	E	N	E	E	L	H	T	A	K	I	A
S	I	T	G	S	L	L	I	N	D	A	A	R	T	W
S	R	H	H	T	G	P	D	E	V	O	L	A	T	A
A	A	G	T	N	S	M	L	I	F	O	D	M	L	W
B	C	I	I	D	L	I	H	C	H	E	E	R	E	O
M	L	R	L	L	O	D	D	O	O	G	N	P	S	T
A	E	B	L	A	C	K	O	O	B	Y	R	O	T	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Truthful

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Donald Sterling banned for life by the NBA

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA Commissioner Adam Silver delivered the swiftest, strongest penalty he could, then called on NBA owners to force Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling to sell the team for making racist comments that hurt the league.

Almost unanimously, owners supported the commissioner Tuesday as he handed down one of the harshest penalties in the history of U.S. sports.

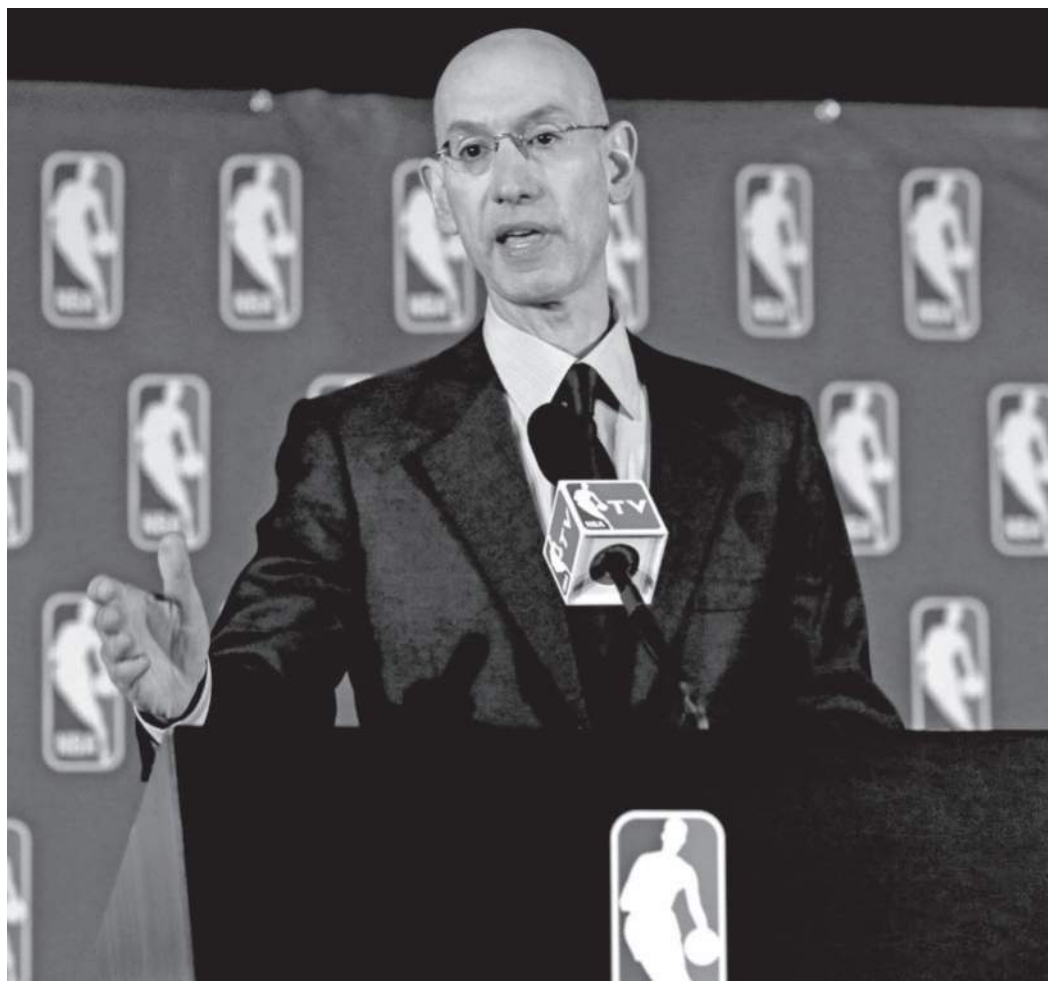
"We stand together in condemning Mr. Sterling's views. They simply have no place in the NBA," Silver said at a news conference.

Sterling, 80, is banned for life from any association with the league or the Clippers, and was fined $2.5 million—the maximum allowable under the NBA constitution. If three-fourths of the other 29 owners agree to Silver's recommendation, Sterling will be forced to sell the team he has owned since 1981.

A message left seeking comment at Sterling's business office hadn't been returned Tuesday afternoon. Team spokesman Seth Burton said in an email that the Clippers had no plans to issue a statement from Sterling on Tuesday, but the franchise released a statement "wholeheartedly" supporting Silver's decision.

After the announcement, the Clippers' website featured only a simple message: "We are one." The mantra was repeated by the team's public-address announcers and chanted by their fans several times during their playoff game Tuesday night, a cathartic 113-103 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Players and civil rights leaders alike cheered Silver's quick action. Players' union officials said that if the league's punishment hadn't included a mandate for Sterling to sell the team, players were considering boycotting playoff games, including Tuesday's matchup with Golden State in the team's first home game since the scandal erupted.



AP

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver addresses a news conference in New York, Tuesday, April 29, 2014. Silver announced that Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling has been banned for life by the league in response to racist comments the league says he made in a recorded conversation.

"We wanted to be a part of this decision, and we wanted Adam Silver to know where we stood. And we were very clear that anything other than Sterling selling his team was not going to be enough for us," said Roger Mason Jr., the first vice president of the players' union.

The Clippers received raucous cheers when they took the court for warmups before Game 5. Two days earlier, they dumped their team warmup jerseys in a pile at center court in Oakland in a gesture of defiance against their owner before losing Game 4 of the series.

Chris Paul, the Clippers' All-Star point guard and the president of the players' union, issued a brief statement before leading Los Angeles against the Warriors.

"In response to today's ruling by the NBA and Commissioner Adam Silver, my teammates and I are in agreement with his decision," Paul said. "We appreciate the strong leadership from Commissioner Silver and he has our full support."

Paul then had 20 points, seven assists and six rebounds as the Clippers won Game 5 and moved within one victory of just the franchise's third playoff series victory since Sterling bought the team nearly 33 years ago.

Sterling's comments—which were recorded by his girlfriend and released by TMZ on Saturday—harmed the league, Silver said. Sponsors were threatening to abandon the NBA, and criticism was coming from fans on social media and even the White House.

Sterling criticized V. Stiviano—purportedly the female voice on the recording—for posting pictures of herself with black athletes Magic Johnson and Matt Kemp.

"It bothers me a lot that you want to broadcast that you're associating with black people. Do you have to?" Sterling asks the woman on the recording.

"Sentiments of this kind are contrary to the principles of inclusion and respect that form the foundation of our diverse, multicultural and multiethnic league," Silver said.

The NBA's longest-tenured owner keeps his team for now—and Silver said he didn't know if Sterling would fight to do so permanently.

But he can't attend games or practices, can't be involved in any personnel decisions or participate in board of governors meetings.

Just three days after the scandal broke, and hours before the Clippers hosted their biggest game of the season, Silver apologized to some of the league's black pioneers while meting out a punishment he believed would satisfy outraged players and fans.

Sterling's Clippers have been one of the most incompetent franchises in pro sports, and nearly all of their previous seasons would have been finished by now. But after the most successful two-year stretch in Clippers history, the current team is a title contender led by Doc Rivers, a black coach whom Sterling brought in from Boston and paid $7 million a year.

"(Silver) made the decision that really was the right one that had to be made," Rivers said before the Clippers' game. "I don't think this is something that we rejoice in or anything like that. I told the players about the decision, and I think they were just happy there was a resolution and that it's over, at least the start of it. I think we're all in a better place because of this."

Silver said the ban applied only to Sterling, and there had been no discussions about whether he could sell to a family member. Sterling's estranged wife, Rochelle, has been closely involved with the franchise for years.

Many owners supported Silver, and none of them publicly defended Sterling.

"We applaud the firm punishment handed out today by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and appreciate the swiftness with which the NBA conducted its investigation," Warriors co-owner Joe Lacob said in a statement.

The fine will be donated to organizations dedicated to anti-discrimination and tolerance efforts, Silver said.

Sterling, with an estimated net worth of about $2 billion, did not comment, though Silver said he did not apologize for his remarks. Silver said Sterling confirmed that he was the person on the recording.

Silver hasn't even been on the job three months and already had to face a crisis that threatened the league not only financially—with several companies ending or suspending their sponsorships of the Clippers. Staples Center carried almost no advertising Tuesday night, with most sponsorship signage either removed or covered.

The scandal affected the NBA even more on a social level. The league survived the Indiana Pacers' brawl with Detroit Pistons fans, and referee Tim Donaghy betting on games he officiated. But this brought a different level of outrage, particularly because the league could have done something sooner about Sterling, who has faced federal charges of civil rights violations and racial discrimination in his business dealings.

"This has all happened in three days, and so I am hopeful there will be no long-term damage to the league and to the Clippers organization," Silver said. "But as I said earlier, I'm outraged so I certainly understand other people's outrage."

Rivers canceled practice Monday and declined a meeting request from Sterling. He wouldn't address whether he would return next season if Sterling were still in control, a stance reaffirmed by the coach before Game 5 of the Clippers' playoff series with Golden State.

That might not be an issue if the owners vote to oust the owner.

Sterling is estranged from his wife and had been dating Stiviano, 31. In court documents, Stiviano describes him as a man "with a big toothy grin brandishing his sexual prowess in the faces of the Paparazzi and caring less what anyone else thought, the least of which, his own wife."

Silver said when he first heard the audio, he hoped it had been altered or was fake, but thought it was Sterling. And it doesn't matter if Sterling didn't realize he was being recorded, Silver said.

"Whether or not these remarks were initially shared in private, they're now public, and they represent his views."

Jordan, Paul lead Clippers over Warriors, 113-103

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hours after owner Donald Sterling was banned from the NBA for life, the Los Angeles Clippers returned to an energized Staples Center and beat Golden State 113-103 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in their first-round playoff series.

DeAndre Jordan had 25 points, a playoff career high, and 18 rebounds while Chris Paul scored 20 points for the Clippers.

Los Angeles coach Doc Rivers high-fived each of his players near the bench in an uncommon display of excitement as the final seconds ticked away. Jamal Crawford of the Clippers hugged and slapped hands with fans at courtside on the way to the locker room.

Commissioner Adam Silver also fined Sterling $2.5 million and called on NBA owners to force him to sell the team for making racist comments.

The Clippers are on the brink of just their third playoff series victory since Sterling bought the team in 1981. Game 6 is Thursday night in Oakland.

Crawford scored 19 points for the Clippers while Blake Griffin had 18 and Darren Collison 15.

Klay Thompson led the Warriors with 21 points. David Lee and Andre Iguodala scored 18 apiece while Stephen Curry had a so-so game with 17 points, including four 3-pointers.

Wizards 75, Bulls 69

In Chicago, John Wall finished with 24 points and Nene scored 20 as Washington clinched the first-round series in five games.

Bradley Beal scored 17 points, and the fifth-seeded Wizards advanced in the postseason for just the third time since the 1970s. They will meet Indiana or Atlanta in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

It's a huge step for a franchise that hadn't been to the postseason since 2008, but with Wall and Beal leading the way, they won 44 games during the regular season.

The Wizards turned a halftime tie into a nine-point lead heading into the fourth quarter and hung on down the stretch.

Chicago's comeback chances took a big hit early in the final quarter when Taj Gibson crumbled to the court clutching his left ankle after he tried to block a layup by Wall with the Wizards up by six points. He had to be helped off the court and did not return.

Wall and Nene, back from a one-game suspension for grabbing Butler's head, both had seven rebounds. Marcin Gortat had two points and 13 rebounds.

Grizzlies 100, Thunder 99, OT

In Oklahoma City, Mike Miller scored 21 points and Memphis held off Oklahoma City in a record fourth straight overtime game to take a 3-2 lead in the first-round series.

Oklahoma City rebounded a missed 3-point attempt by Miller and called a timeout, trailing 100-99 with 2.9 seconds remaining. Kevin Durant of the Thunder missed a long 3-point attempt and teammate Serge Ibaka tipped the ball in on the rebound. The shot was reviewed and it was determined that it was released after the buzzer, ending the game.

Zach Randolph added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who will host Game 6 on Thursday.

Russell Westbrook had 30 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City trailed by 20 points in the third quarter but trimmed its deficit to six by the start of the fourth quarter and finally took a 79-78 lead on a 3-pointer by Durant.

Consecutive baskets by Mike Conley put the Grizzlies up 87-82 with just under 4 minutes to play.

Overbay, Brewers beat Cardinals 5-4 in 11 innings

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Lyle Overbay singled in Khris Davis with the tiebreaking run and the beat the St. Louis Cardinals in extra innings for the second straight night, winning 5-4 in 11 innings Tuesday.

Davis hit a go-ahead triple to help the Brewers win 5-3 in 12 innings Monday and started the winning rally this time with a leadoff double against Kevin Siegrist (0-1). Milwaukee is a major league-best 20-7, two more victories than the previous franchise best for the opening month, and 11-1 on the road.

Carlos Gomez homered and pitcher Kyle Lohse had a two-run single for the Brewers, who have won five of six. Tyler Thornburg (3-0) struck out four in two scoreless innings and Francisco Rodriguez finished for his 13th save in 13 chances.

Yadier Molina hit a three-run homer in the first and Allen Craig's RBI triple tied it in the seventh for the Cardinals, who have lost three of four.

The Brewers, missing four starters, improved to 4-1 in extra innings. The Cardinals are 0-3.

AP

Milwaukee Brewers' Khris Davis, right, is congratulated by teammate Mark Reynolds, left, after scoring on a single by Lyle Overbay during the 11th inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Tuesday, April 29, 2014, in St. Louis.

Marlins 9, Braves 0

In Miami, Jose Fernandez allowed two hits in eight stellar innings, Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer and Miami opened a homestand by routing Atlanta.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia also homered. Second baseman Ed Lucas had three hits in his season debut after recovering from a broken left hand, and Marcell Ozuna hit a two-run single for the Marlins.

Fernandez (4-1) was dominant against the NL East leaders again, lowering his ERA to 1.59. He struck out eight and walked two.

Braves starter Alex Wood (2-4) allowed seven runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings.

Fernandez beat Wood 1-0 last Tuesday when the two pitchers combined for 25 strikeouts and no walks.

Mets 6, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Jonathon Niese pitched seven steady innings on a rainy night and Daniel Murphy had three hits to lead New York over Philadelphia.

Ruben Tejada doubled and had two RBIs for the surprising Mets, who chased Cole Hamels (0-2) in the fifth and have won seven of nine. They improved to 15-11 overall, marking the first time New York has been four games over .500 since July 14, 2012.

Marlon Byrd homered and Ryan Howard had two hits with a double for Philadelphia, which lost for only the third time in nine games.

The start was delayed by rain for 1 hour, 28 minutes, and the temperature at first pitch was a chilly 46 degrees. But the weather hardly affected Niese (2-2), who gave up four hits while striking out five and walking one.

Reds 3, Cubs 2

In Cincinnati, Billy Hamilton hit his first career homer and Chris Heisey singled home the tiebreaking run in the sixth inning, sending Cincinnati past Chicago in a game delayed three times because of rain.

The game started 19 minutes late. There was a 15-minute delay in the top of the fifth and a 71-minute delay in the bottom of the sixth.

Hamilton's solo shot off Jeff Samardzija (0-3) tied it in the fifth. Zack Cozart tripled with two outs in the sixth, and Heisey's pinch-hit single put the Reds ahead as heavy rain started to fall.

Alfredo Simon (4-1) gave up five hits, including Starlin Castro's two-run single. Jonathan Broxton retired all three batters in the ninth for his fifth save in five chances.

The Cubs have lost five of six, falling to 8-17. Chicago manager Rick Renteria was ejected for arguing balls and strikes in the sixth.

Giants 6, Padres 0

In San Francisco, Angel Pagan hit a leadoff homer, Buster Posey connected two batters later and Yusmeiro Petit went six innings in a spot start for injured Matt Cain as San Francisco beat San Diego.

Cain was scratched after cutting the tip of his right index finger. Giants manager Bruce Bochy said before the game that Cain was in the clubhouse kitchen and had a knife in his hand when the utensil dropped. Cain tried to catch it and cut his finger about a half-inch. He is expected to make his next start.

Petit (2-1) didn't allow a hit until Everth Cabrera's leadoff single in the fourth. Jean Machi and Santiago Casilla finished the three-hitter.

Hector Sanchez hit a two-run single and a sacrifice fly. Pagan and Posey homered off Eric Stults (1-3), who gave up five runs and seven hits in 2 2-3 innings.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Drew Stubbs hit his first home run of the season, off closer Addison Reed in the ninth inning, to lift Colorado over Arizona.

Troy Tulowitzki had his second big game in a row in Arizona, hitting a two-run homer to put the Rockies up 4-3 in the sixth. A.J. Pollock tied it with a two-out home run in the eighth.

Stubbs, who entered in a double switch in the eighth, hit a 2-2 pitch from Reed (0-2) into the right field seats, his first homer in 43 at-bats this year.

Boone Logan (1-0) gave up Pollock's homer but got the victory. LaTroy Hawkins allowed two hits in a scoreless ninth for his ninth save.

The Diamondbacks dropped their fourth straight, all at home, to fall to 2-13 at Chase Field this season.

Colorado starter Tyler Chatwood left in the sixth with tightness in his right elbow. Nolan Arenado had an RBI single to extend his hitting streak to 19 games, longest in the majors this season.

Athletics 9, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Derek Norris drove in three runs with a pair of doubles, Scott Kazmir outpitched Martin Perez and the Oakland Athletics beat the Texas Rangers.

The A's went ahead to stay on Norris' two-run double in the first off Perez (4-1), who had pitched 26 consecutive scoreless innings over his previous three starts.

The left-hander had thrown three-hit shutouts his last two games, including at Oakland six days earlier.

Kazmir (4-0) tied for the AL lead in wins. He needed 95 pitches to get through five innings, but left with a 9-3 lead. The lefty struck out four and walked one.

When Norris added an RBI double to make it 4-0 in the third, the A's already had six hits off Perez, who started the night with an AL-best 1.42 ERA.

Mariners 6, Yankees 3

In New York, Robinson Cano drove in a run and scored another in a most unwelcome return to Yankee Stadium, helping Seattle beat New York for its fourth win in five games.

Amid lusty boos from a modest crowd on a rainy, 46-degree night, Cano began his first game in the Bronx since joining Seattle this winter for $240 million with a wink — at Yankees starter CC Sabathia (3-3).

Cano got a mock cheer when he struck out to end the inning, then was met with chants of "You sold out!" from the Bleacher Creatures when he took his spot at second base.

When Cano grounded out to first base in the fourth, first baseman Mark Teixeira gave him a smile after the close play. The five-time All-Star was even booed when he cleanly handled a grounder.

Chris Young (1-0) gave up a second-inning homer to Teixeira and not much else in 5 2-3 innings to earn his first win since 2012. Mike Zunino had a career-high four hits, one courtesy of a replay review that sparked a four-run fifth inning.

Red Sox 7, Rays 4

In Boston, Shane Victorino had four hits and his first two RBIs of the season, John Lackey pitched eight strong innings and Boston beat slumping Tampa Bay.

Victorino, activated from the disabled list last week after missing the first 22 games with a hamstring injury, finished 4 for 4 to hike his batting average from .133 to .316. He singled in his first two at-bats, hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth and added an RBI double during Boston's five-run sixth.

Lackey (4-2) scattered six hits and allowed two runs, striking out five and walking one. After the Rays scored twice in the ninth, Koji Uehara came in and struck out Ben Zobrist on three pitches for his sixth save.

Jackie Bradley Jr. had a pair of doubles and two RBIs as the Red Sox won for the third time in four games.

The Rays lost for the seventh time in eight road games and are 4-9 away from home.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Bryan Holaday bunted home Austin Jackson with two out in the ninth to lift Detroit over Chicago.

Jackson lined a long drive to right off Ronald Belisario and reached third when the ball was misplayed for an error by Dayan Viciedo. Jackson scored on Holaday's surprise bunt down the first base line.

Right-hander Joba Chamberlain (1-1) worked one inning of relief and Joe Nathan earned his fifth save.

Belisario (1-3) pitched two innings, allowing one hit and striking out three.

White Sox starter Jose Quintana struck out a season-high 10, but had no decision for the third time this season, departing after six innings with the game tied 3-all.

Royals 10, Blue Jays 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez homered and drove in four runs, helping Kansas City rally to defeat Toronto.

Perez's two-run double off Sergio Santos in the Royals' six-run eighth put the Royals ahead. Perez's four RBIs matched his career high.

The Royals sent 10 men to the plate in the eighth, which also included Omar Infante driving in two runs, while Nori Aoki and Jarrod Dyson added RBI singles.

Perez, who has three consecutive multi-hit games, homered in the seventh with Alex Gordon aboard to trim Toronto's lead to 5-4.

Aaron Crow (1-1), the third of four Royals pitchers, picked up the victory with a scoreless eighth inning and has not allowed an earned run and only five hits in nine innings this season.

Brett Cecil (0-2) took the loss, retiring only two of the five batters he faced.

Angels 6, Indians 4

In Anaheim, Calif., Howie Kendrick had a two-run single in his first game in the leadoff spot this season, Chris Iannetta hit a pair of RBI singles and Los Angeles sent Cleveland to its fifth straight loss.

Jered Weaver (2-2) allowed two runs and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings, striking out six and walking one. The Angels' ace threw 90 pitches and was lifted after giving up four consecutive hits, including a two-run homer by Carlos Santana.

Joe Smith, the seventh Angels pitcher, tossed a perfect ninth for his second save in two nights against his former teammates after he was thrust into the closer's role last Friday in place of an ineffective Ernesto Frieri.

Corey Kluber (2-3) gave up four runs—three earned—and four hits over 4 2-3 innings with five strikeouts and four walks.

Nationals 4, Astros 3

In Houston, Adam LaRoche hit a tying double in the eighth inning and a go-ahead single in the ninth to lift Washington over Houston.

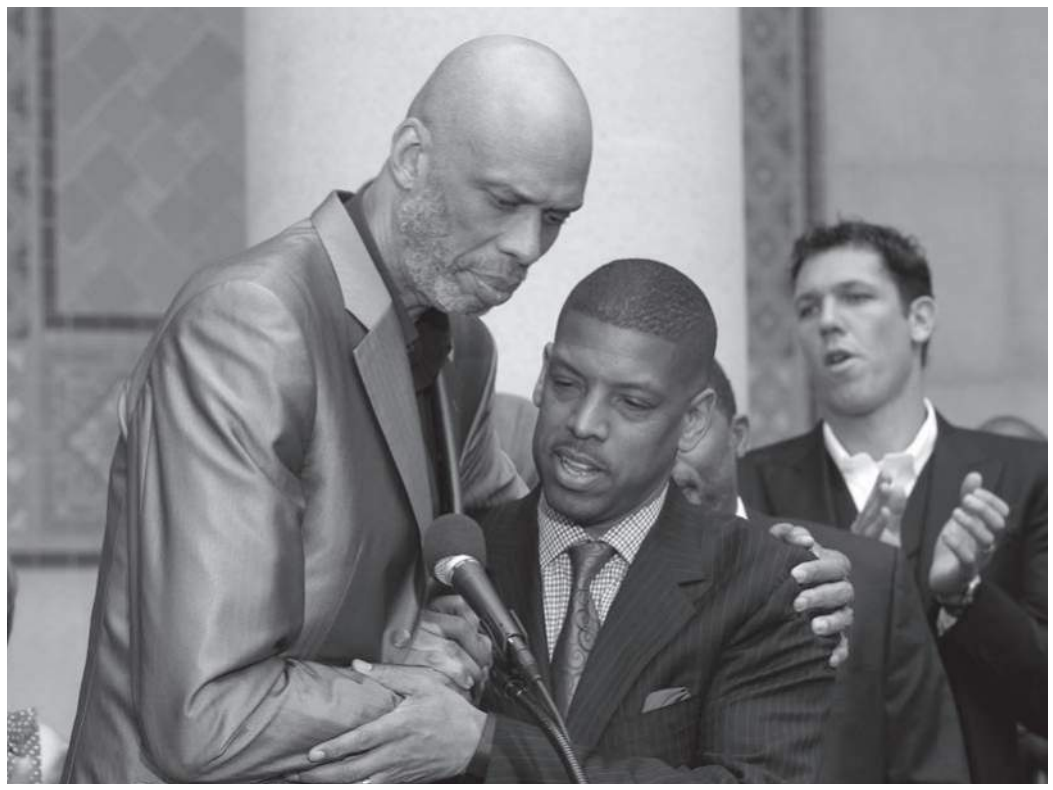
Jayson Werth homered as the Nationals won the opener of the interleague series.

Denard Span drew a leadoff walk in the ninth, stole second base and advanced to third on a groundout. He scored on LaRoche's hit to right field off Josh Fields (0-3).

Tyler Clippard (2-2) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Rafael Soriano walked two in a scoreless ninth for his fifth save.

Racist views exile Sterling from the NBA

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER



AP

Sacramento, Calif., Mayor Kevin Johnson, center, and Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar embrace during a news conference outside City Hall in Los Angeles Tuesday, April 29, 2014, after Johnson's comments on the decision by NBA commissioner Adam Silver to ban Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling from basketball for life in response to racist comments the league says Sterling made in a recorded conversation. Former NBA player Luke Walton applauds at rear right rear.

Donald Sterling is being exiled for racist views shared in private.

America cherishes its freedom of thought and speech. But Sterling's comments were so nakedly bigoted that demands intensified for the Los Angeles Clippers owner to pay a heavy price for his views, even though they were taped during a private conversation with his girlfriend.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver heeded the demands and delivered one of the harshest penalties in the history of U.S. sports: a lifetime ban from pro basketball and a $2.5 million fine. Despite Sterling's donations to black causes and the rich contract he gave the game's top black coach, Silver also promised to convince owners to force a sale of the Clippers over the 80-year-old Sterling's "hateful" demands for his 31-year-old girlfriend not to broadcast her association with black people.

"He has a right to his beliefs, to his thoughts. He has a right to free speech. He doesn't have a right to be an owner of an NBA franchise," said Dr. Harry Edwards, a scholar of race and sports who has worked as a consultant for several professional teams.

"We can't remove racism from American society any more than we can remove murder," Edwards said. "But just because we can't remove it, that doesn't mean we shouldn't fight it."

Wayne Embry fought racism for decades, by refusing to let it defeat him. Drafted into the NBA in 1958, when quotas limited the number of black players, he was the only African-American on the Cincinnati Royals, and later became the NBA's first black general manager. He wrote the book "Inside Game: Race, Power and Politics in the NBA."

He thinks that Sterling's punishment is appropriate, and sends a powerful statement: "Such ignorance cannot and will not be tolerated."

"Not just in the NBA," said Embry, who now works in the Toronto Raptors' front office, "but it's an important message to send throughout society."

"Sterling's mentality sets us back 150 years," Embry continued. "We are not going back there. So yes, action needed to be taken. It sends a clear message that as a league, and as a society for a diverse people, we are not going back there."

A variety of factors converged to extend the fight against racism into the heart and mind of Donald Sterling.

Racism is often deniable these days, because it has become more subtle and complex than the blatant oppression of the past, and because race is a common political tool. So when Sterling provided such a rare and obvious example of bigotry, it sparked a sort of feeding frenzy.

"In general, people in society tend to be very dismissive of claims of racism unless it is really overt. Short of a Klan rally, people generally won't accept charges of racism," said Todd Boyd, a USC professor who studies race and sports and is author of the NBA book "Young, Black, Rich and Famous."

Boyd noted that Sterling had escaped basically unscathed despite years of racial missteps. The billionaire had paid a $2.76 million settlement to resolve a federal lawsuit accusing him of systematically excluding blacks and Hispanics from his rental properties. A wrongful termination lawsuit by general manager Elgin Baylor described various slurs and slights.

Sterling won the Baylor case. As his racial problems mounted over the years, he donated enough money to black causes to receive two lifetime achievement awards from the NAACP. He hired Doc Rivers, one of the NBA's top coaches, and gave him GM powers and a contract worth $7 million per year.

Still, when an audio recording of Sterling's comments was leaked, with Sterling telling his girlfriend things like, "it bothers me a lot that you want to broadcast that you're associating with black people," it provided an easy opportunity to address a longstanding issue.

Retired NBA star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was bothered by the sudden outrage.

"What bothers me about this whole Donald Sterling affair isn't just his racism," he wrote on Time magazine's website. "I'm bothered that everyone acts as if it's a huge surprise."

Boyd also sensed some opportunism among those calling for Sterling's ouster.

"When something like this comes out and it's so blatant, it's embarrassing for a lot of people who want to believe that they live in a society where racism doesn't exist," he said. "A lot of them might be white; a lot might also be black."

"There also are a lot of African-Americans in society who, it's almost as though they're waiting for moments like this to prove their blackness," Boyd continued. "It gives them an opportunity to say, I'm protesting, I'm boycotting. Get this racist out. It sort of gives their life meaning."

Sterling presented such a huge and rare target, few people stopped to wonder whether punishing someone for private thoughts, instead of actions, was a good idea. What would then prevent other opinions from being targeted?

Mark Cuban, owner of the NBA's Mavericks, was among the few.

DLX caging opens next month

Domino Lux International Fraternity will be having its 6th Basketball Invitational Friendship League next week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Interested teams are asked to submit their final line-up this Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Only the first 16 teams to turn in their roster and $350 registration fee will be allowed to play in the league that will open shop on May 10.

Coaches/players or their representatives are asked to attend a meeting this Saturday, May 3, at 6:30pm and be briefed about the rules and regulations of the league.

For more information about the DLX caging, contact Mhelbert Dela Rama at 287-9044, Nelson Samson at 898-4826, or Rick Brien at 789-7620. ***(PR)***

LITTLE

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tend the game. The Ol'Aces could not event get half of the needed runs, as they collected only four and had three stranded runners after Tyler Macaranas was called for a 1-3 putout play for the third out and the end of the team's misery.

In the second game, the Little Legals turned on the heat early en route to the lopsided win, bagging 12 runs in the first inning. The Little Legals then went for the jugular in the third and last inning, hauling 14 more runs.

The Little Legals capitalized on the Jets' disorganized defense to score 10 unearned runs at the top of the first. The Jets also scored off the Little Legals' miscues, but got only two, and continued to struggle against the latter's three pitchers. Sean Rabauliman started out for the Little Legals and after giving up a triple to the Jets leadoff batter in the first inning, he held his ground and got three strikeouts before being relieved by Pedro Maratita. Maratita notched back-to-back strikeouts to end the second inning and was replaced by Gloyd Martin at the start of the third inning. The Little Legals closer then finished off the Jets in style, striking out the latter's first three batters.

Meanwhile, the Red Sox got a free win after a no-show from the GSM Twins in the first game, while Sunday's matches were rained-out, leaving only five teams assured of playoff berths in the 15-team field.

The Falcons (12-1), IT&E (12-2), Braves (11-3), Comets I (10-3), and JPO Enforcers (9-4) are in the playoffs, while the Little Legals (8-6), Laolao Bay (7-6), McDonald's (7-6), IP&E Rockies (7-7), and Hustlers (6-7) will battle for the last three tickets. The Red Sox (6-8), Comets II (3-11), Ol'Aces (2-12), Jets (1-13), and Twins (0-14) are eliminated.

KANOA

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the net in the first half, Somia Quan broke Independents FC's silence with a goal in the 53rd minute. Farleen Esmundo then canned the insurance goal for IFC, as she scored 10 minutes before the match wrapped up.

With the victory, IFC improved its record to 3-0-2 windraw and moved up to second place behind the undefeated Kanoa FC. Tan Holdings is still winless after four matches.

In the second game, MP United registered a 2-0 win over Paire. MP United recorded both goals in the first half, getting an own goal in the opening minutes of the game and drawing the other one from Manami Tadokoro late in that period. MP United now has a 2-1-1 slate, while Paire dropped to a 1-0-3 card.

Action in the seven-team field will resume this Saturday with Matansa FC taking on MP United in the first game at 4pm. In the second match at 6pm Paire will meet Tan Holdings, while in the last tiff set for 8pm, Shirley's will square off against Independents.

NORTHERN

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E.J. Tenorio, Mike Iguel, and Jeremy Atalig hit RBI singles and the latter reached off a wild pitch to lift the Northern Starz to a 4-0 lead after one complete inning. The Tigers sliced the deficit to two with McGary Scaliem and John Santi scoring off errors at the top of the second, but the Northern Starz countered with another four-run inning to keep its distance. Lamarc Iguel blasted an RBI double, Tenorio had another RBI single, which Dodet Feliciano and Ben Lizama duplicated for the Northern Starz's 8-2 advantage.

The lead was then stretched to twin digits, 13-2, as Northern Starz's starting pitcher Lamarc Iguel stranded four Tigers runners in the next two innings, while the eventual semifinalist took five more runs—four of them were earned. The Tigers' never recovered from thereon, despite scoring in each of the last four innings. The Tigers recorded their most runs (three) in the fifth inning with Peter Lieto connecting on a two-run single and Jesse Mesa scoring off an error, but was held to one run each in the last three innings.

The Northern Starz failed to rack up a single run in the fifth and saved one in the sixth before going flat anew in the seventh for a 14-7 lead. The Tigers moved within six, 8-14, off Mesa's RBI single, but the Northern Starz still secured the early win via 10-run mercy rule after bagging four more runs at the bottom of the eighth. Three of those runs were earned, while the other one was registered off the Tigers' error at second base.

Tenorio led the Northern Starz with his 4-for-6 performance at the plate, four runs, and two RBIs. Iguel also had two RBIs after going 3-for-5 at bat.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	15	11	.577	–
Baltimore	12	12	.500	2
Boston	13	14	.481	2½
Toronto	12	14	.462	3
Tampa Bay	11	16	.407	4½

Central Division

Detroit	13	9	.591	–
Minnesota	12	11	.522	1½
Kansas City	13	12	.520	1½
Chicago	14	14	.500	2
Cleveland	11	16	.407	4½

West Division

Oakland	17	10	.630	–
Texas	15	12	.556	2
Los Angeles	13	13	.500	3½
Seattle	11	14	.440	5
Houston	9	18	.333	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	17	8	.680	–
New York	15	11	.577	2½
Washington	15	12	.556	3
Philadelphia	13	13	.500	4½
Miami	12	14	.462	5½

Central Division

Milwaukee	20	7	.741	–
St. Louis	14	14	.500	6½
Cincinnati	12	14	.462	7½
Pittsburgh	10	16	.385	9½
Chicago	8	17	.320	11

West Division

San Francisco	16	11	.593	–
Colorado	16	12	.571	½
Los Angeles	14	12	.538	1½
San Diego	13	15	.464	3½
Arizona	8	22	.267	9½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SSC Escape from Managaha

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Participants in last Saturday's Saipan Swim Club Escape from Managaha pose for a photo while waiting for the race briefing at Smiling Cove Marina.

Eric Cooke, left, and Brad Ruszala are on their way to the finish line of the 2.4-kilometer crossing from Managaha to Micro Beach.

Two participants get out of the water together.

Jini Thompson checks on the people waiting for her to finish.

SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield runs to the shore.

Taiga Sato, left, and Christian Villacrusis are on their way to a Top 5 finish.

Saipan World Resort lifeguards pose for a photo before assisting swimmers joining the race.

David Boyer stretches while waiting for their trip to Managaha.

Kento Akimaru runs to the shore for a first place finish.

An SSC swimmer removes his swimming cap after completing the race.

Participants pose for a photo before their boat leaves for Managaha.

Donald Sterling banned for life by the NBA
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Sports

Overbay, Brewers beat Cardinals 5-4 in 11 innings
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Little Legals, Braves hammer foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Little Legals and Tanapag Braves showed no mercy to their respective opponents in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Little Legals pummeled the Jets in the second game last weekend, 30-2, while the Braves pounded the Ol'Aces, 30-8, in the final match.

The Braves turned a close game to a rout after a backbreaking performance at the top of the fifth inning. The Braves exploded for 22 runs in the fifth with four batters on top of their order scoring three runs apiece and seven going at bat three times. The Braves scored majority of their runs off the Ol'Aces' defensive meltdown and the 22 runs are the most made by any team in a single inning this season.

Before the breakaway, the Braves were just ahead by four, 8-4. They failed to make it to the board in the first inning, got three runs apiece in the second and third, and added two more in the fourth. The Ol'Aces logged all their four runs at the bottom of the fourth inning.

At the top of the fifth, eight of the Braves' first nine batters scored and all reached home on their second at bat. In the third round, five more batters made it home before the Ol'Aces stopped the bleeding, tagging out Joe Tudela at second base.

Now behind by 26 big runs, 30-4, the Ol'Aces faced a daunting task of nailing at least 15 runs at the bottom fifth to ex-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Braves second baseman Heat Camacho calls for the ball, as the Ol'Aces' Jordan Babauta steals base during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Kanoa FC on a roll in women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club stretched its win streak in the 2014 NMIFA Women's League to five, following a 7-0 spanking of Matansa Football Club last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Five different players scored in Kanoa FC's rout of Matansa (2-0-3 win-draw-loss record) in the last game of the weekend. Jeralyn Castillo and Friendly Joy Pena gave Kanoa FC two goals apiece, while Lalaine Pagarao, Marielle Gariguez, and Thea Minor contributed one each.

Castillo started Kanoa's offense with her goal in the 25th minute, while the team got its second goal quickly with Pena bagging her first two minutes later. Pena went on to drill back-to-back goals as she scored in the 30th minute, powering Kanoa to a 3-0 halftime lead. Kanoa kept going against the quiet Matansa team with Castillo kicking off the team's attack anew in the second half with her goal in the 54th. Kanoa had a string of three goals in a span of six minutes as Pagarao and Gariguez made it to the board in the 56th and 58th minute, respectively, before Minor closed out the scoring in the 79th.

Meanwhile, Independents FC and MP United FC also shut out their respective foes in the two other matches played last Saturday.

IFC played in the curtain-raiser against Tan Holdings FC and bagged a 2-0 victory. After both teams failed to find the back of

See KANOA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Independents FC's Somia Quan tries to lead a breakaway on offense during the first half of their game versus Tan Holdings FC in the NMIFA women's league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Northern Starz ousts Tigers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Starz sent the Tigers packing after an emphatic 18-8 win in the playoff game for the fourth and final semis slot in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

With the victory, the Northern Starz arranged a semis duel against pennant champion Saipan Stevedore Yankees with Game 1 of their best-of-five series scheduled to be played tonight. The other Final Four pairing will have the second-ranked and defending champions GSM Brewers battling the third-seeded Fielders.

The Northern Starz and Tigers had to go through a playoff match to join the Yankees, Brewers, and Fielders in the next round after completing the double-round robin regular season with similar 4-6 records. The Tigers forced a tie for the fourth and last semis berth after prevailing in their final game in the regular season against the winless D-9ers (0-10), 18-8, last Friday.

The Northern Starz, on the other hand, dropped its last two assignments in the elimination round before regaining its bearing and outclassing the Tigers in a make-or-break game. The Northern Starz cruised past the Tigers after winning the exchanged in the first four innings, as the former scored four runs apiece in three innings, while the latter was held to two unearned runs.

See NORTHERN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Northern Starz's Lamarc Iguel warms up before going at-bat during their last regular season game in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Northern Starz lost to the Brewers, 11-7, but still made it to the playoffs after an 18-8 win over the Tigers in a knockout match last Tuesday night.